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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 214 | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you pay attention to where your food comes from?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Two Killed

A roadside bomb killed two U.S. soldiers in a predominantly Shiite area in Baghdad.

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Homework

When it comes to homework, Mary Beth McLoughlin leaves nothing to chance.

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New Robot

"The Terminator" will be back next summer, but the original killer robot, Arnold Schwarzenegger, is a bit puzzled by this new model.

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400-plus govt workers convert to DCP. **PAGE 3**

BOE interviews commissioner candidates today. **PAGE 5**

Rota mayor's son is arrested for alleged armed robbery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested on Monday a son of Rota Mayor Joseph Inos for allegedly robbing a poker arcade on Rota.

Wilbur Vic Masga Inos, 25, was detained for robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault.

A $75,500 cash bail was initially imposed for Wilbur Inos' temporary liberty. He was set to appear for a bail hearing at the Saipan Superior Court yesterday afternoon.

Detective George A. Barcinas stated in

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IMPACT OF CNMI IMMIGRATION'S FEDERALIZATION

GAO: Local GDP could plunge

Lack of complete data hobbles impact analysis

"The failure to produce the report before Congress acted on the legislation is very disappointing and the report's prediction of adverse impact on our economy as a result of the legislation is truly alarming."

— Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

ON THE NET

http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-791

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Pointing to findings they say will harm the CNMI's economy, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and officials in his administration are blasting a report released yesterday by the Government Accountability Office that details several scenarios on the impact of the pending federal takeover of local immigration rules and includes projections that suggest it could

See GAO on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of Japanese tourists fall in line at the immigration area upon arrival via Northwest airlines at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The CNMI's continued access to tourism markets remain one of its top concerns in relation to the impending federalization of the CNMI's immigration system.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Police chiefs, commissioners and directors from various Micronesian law enforcement entities listen to FBI agent Jim Barry during the three-day 6th annual Micronesian Police Executives Association conference kick off yesterday at the World Resort Hotel's Royal Taga Hall in Susupe.

'Guam buildup would need 12,000 alien workers, 5,000 NMI residents'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

About 12,000 guest workers and an estimated 5,000 CNMI residents are needed for the upcoming U.S. military buildup in Guam, according to a visiting U.S. military official.

Lt. Col. Rudy R. Kube, operations director for the U.S. Marine Corps Joint Guam Program Office, said yesterday that the foreign workers will not necessarily be Filipinos, but that the Philippines is traditionally one of the sources of manpower for the construction sector.

"In talking to most of the contractors, my understanding is a lot of them work with the Philippines. It's not necessarily just the Philippines, but that's one of the sources," Kube told the media.

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Local

CUC pens comprehensive environmental accords

The Commonwealth Utility Corp. and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial have finalized agreements with the U.S. Department of Justice that set the course for CUC's compliance with federal environmental standards. These agreements will be filed in federal court as stipulated orders.

Under one agreement CUC will complete work on Saipan's drinking water system and will bring CUC's sewage treatment systems into full compliance with the Clean Water Act. The second agreement is designed to resolve CUC's used oil concerns, including the storage of oil in the Lower Base Tank 104.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a number of administrative orders against CUC, dating back as far as 1999, which require compliance with drinking water and sewage treatment standards.

"In the past people wanted to hide from bad news," said Fitial. "We decided to fix the problem instead."

The agreements require CUC to reorganize its management and operations structure, hire engineers and other environmental professionals, submit financial and infrastructure plans, and undertake a number of interim construction projects. EPA, the Department of Interior, and the CNMI capital improvement program have all dedicated funds and other resources to CUC's environmental overhaul.

"Many of the engineers and environmental professionals required under the agreements have already been hired by CUC," said CUC executive director Tony Muña. "We've been reorganizing agency operations for some time now. The stipulated orders just guarantee that CUC crosses the finish line in full compliance."

The agreements, signed by Fitial and Muña, have been forwarded to the U.S. Justice Department for signatures of federal officials. ***(PR)***

POLICE SUMMIT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Police chiefs, commissioners and directors from various Micronesian law enforcement entities listen to FBI agent Mike Gadsden during the three-day 6th annual Micronesian Police Executives Association conference kickoff yesterday at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall in Susupe.

Tudela says he will continue some Norita programs

Acting Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela said yesterday he would continue some of the programs that Claudio Norita had implemented at DPS.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Tudela said some of Norita's programs are good so he will let them proceed.

The acting commissioner, however, did not say which programs he will stop as he is still reviewing them.

On his appointment as acting commissioner, Tudela said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had asked him if he could serve the department again.

"After considering that request, I decided to go back and keep the department moving," he said.

Tudela said his priorities would be opening up the police and fire cycle to address the manpower shortage at DPS.

"Some of the guys are deployed to Iraq so I really need the academy going," he said.

On Norita's termination, Tudela said the former commissioner is his good friend.

'We're together at DPS. He knows that I can do the job. I'm just sad that he has to be removed as DPS commissioner," he said.

As commissioner, Tudela said, DPS personnel expect him to provide them leadership and direction.

Tudela served as DPS commissioner during the Babauta administration.

In his farewell letter to DPS, Norita urged police personnel to work with Tudela in continuing the 16 programs that he had started. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Cing to Crisostimo: Help unify party

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Democratic Party's official congressional bet has urged a fellow Democrat to drop his independent bid for the delegate seat and help reunify the party.

Former Sen. David Cing, who is representing the local Democrats in the November election, wrote a letter yesterday urging Sen. Luis Crisostimo to back his candidacy.

Cing

Crisostimo

"I am appealing to you as a last-minute attempt to reunify the Democratic Party," Cing told his supposed rival in the party's canceled primary. "After all, you were the one who suggested very strongly back in June 2008 when you emphasized that we should support each other no matter who was selected by our party."

Cing and Crisostimo were supposed to face off in a primary late last month. However, the party canceled the primary after Crisostimo refused to submit requirements. Shortly after, the party announced its endorsement of Cing as congressional delegate.

Crisostimo, who had begun putting up campaign billboards around the island even before he asked for the party's support, moved forward with his candidacy plan. He has filed with the Commonwealth Election Commission as an independent candidate. He claims to be the official candidate of the National Democratic Party, where he is a member.

In his letter, Cing said Crisostimo's decision "did very little to unify the Democrats." He added, "I am asking you once again for the sake of your constituents to join me and make your place here in the Democratic Party so that we can all be victorious in November."

Phone calls to Crisostimo were not returned at press time.

But in a previous interview, he said he withdrew from the primary because he did not believe the local Democratic Party could register enough members to conduct a fair and credible primary.

The NMI Democratic Party currently has less than 200 registered members.

In 2007, Crisostimo also sought the party's endorsement of his senatorial bid. But the party rejected his application, choosing Gabriel Babauta over him.

In addition to Cing and Crisostimo, there are six candidates who have filed with the Election Commission as of yesterday. They are television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, businessman Chong Won, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, and high school teacher John Davis.

The deadline for filing paperwork for the Nov. 4 election is at 4:30pm today, Aug. 6, 2008.

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DPH-COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER
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The Community Guidance Center (CGC), Department of Public Health is applying for the FY 2009 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant.

Public comments are hereby welcomed for the CNMI State Plan.

To get a copy of the grant application (currently in draft form) electronically or hard copy, please call Josephine @ 323-4060.

All comments must be submitted to CGC no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, 08/08/08.

400-plus govt workers convert to DCP

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Over 400 government employees have converted to the NMI Retirement Fund's defined contribution plan, but it is not clear how much impact this will have on the underfunded defined benefit plan.

Those who have switched to the DC plan represent less than 15 percent of the 3,000 Retirement Fund members eligible to transfer to the new program.

But Fund administrator Mark Aguon said that, while the conversion is certain to have an impact on the old defined benefit plan, the pension agency needs to conduct more study to determine the extent of the benefit.

"There is no simple answer to that," Aguon said, when asked whether the amount of conversions is seen to alleviate the DB plan's funding problems. "There are a lot of factors we have to consider. First, we must remember that 75 percent of our unfunded liability is for members who are already retired. We still have to review the numbers more carefully."

The government had expected to save a substantial amount if eligible employees opted for the defined contribution plan. The new plan increases the employee's share to 10 percent, while reducing government's employer contribution to 4 percent.

Under the defined benefit plan, Class I members pay at a rate of 6.5 percent and Class II members-or older members-pay 9 percent of their compensation. The government's contribution rate for the DB plan is currently at 37.4 percent.

The DC plan also offers members an option to directly manage their own contributions.

Aguon also reported that approximately 500 new government hires have enrolled in the DC program since it opened in July 2007.

The last day for existing government employees to enroll to the DC program was Friday, July 25, 2008. Only new employees will now be allowed into the program.

According to the Fund's actuarial consultant, the Retirement Fund as of Oct. 1, 2006 had an accrued liability of $987.15 million, while have assets amounting to $472.7 million only. This translates to an unfunded liability of $514.46 million.

To ensure the Retirement Fund is able to continue paying out pension benefits, the central government must pay $51.62 million a year to the pension program, or about 37.39 percent of the government's annual payroll.

The actuarially recommended annual contribution represents nearly one third of the revenue the government expects to collect this fiscal year.

FBI, US Attorney aggressive vs human trafficking cases in NMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office are treating the human trafficking problem in the CNMI very aggressively.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said fighting human trafficking is one of the top priorities of the U.S. Attorney General and President Bush himself.

O'Malley said Bush had directed the Department of Justice to make human trafficking and counter-terrorism among the top concerns they should focus on.

The prosecutor was among the presenters during yesterday's kickoff of the three-day 6th annual Micronesian Police Executives Association conference at the World Resort Hotel's Taga Hall.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, O'Malley encouraged human trafficking victims to come forward and seek help.

"We want to let them know the [U.S] government is here to help them—not hurt, not deport, not throw them in jail. If they are true victims of trafficking, meaning they are being forced against their will to do what they don't want to do, we're here to help," O'Malley said.

He said part of his discussion was the difficulty of detection in modern human trafficking.

The prosecutor said it is hard to tell the difference between those who are being treated poorly and those who are doing it because they want to.

"My feeling is [it is difficult] because there are so many nonresident workers here, nonresident workers that come from typical source countries like China, the Philippines. The vast majority of them are garment industry workers who tend to be females, not always well educated and are unaccompanied," he said.

Statistically, O'Malley said, that puts the CNMI at a higher risk than most normal jurisdictions in the U.S. mainland.

"Whether or not it is proportionally more of a problem, I think it would defy statistics to say that it is not more of a problem. But for actual numbers, it is hard to say," he said.

For law enforcers, O'Malley said, their treatment of the problem has to be comprehensive. That means that, from very first point of contact, the victims need to be taken care of, reassured and provided with basic services.

"Otherwise, at the end of the day, when it comes actually putting them on the witness stand and having them testify against the people that trafficked them, they need to be strong, and they need to trust you, they need to trust the government. And if you don't have that, you're not going to win your case," O'Malley said.

House wants CUC reconnection fee waived for poor customers

The House of Representatives has approved legislation exempting low-income utility customers from paying the $60 reconnection fee.

The House, by a vote of 14-1, passed a bill designed to benefit residential customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. who are receiving or who qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Rep. Tina Sablan was the only member to oppose the bill. She said she voted against the bill "primarily because we did not know exactly what the cost impact would be for the proposed program, and it seemed irresponsible to me to create a subsidy program without having at least a vague idea about its cost or how we would pay for it."

Reps. David Apatang, Francisco Dela Cruz, Victor Hocog, Ray Palacios, and Ray Yumul were absent.

Currently, customers who have had their utility service cut off must pay $60 to get the service restored. If enacted, House Bill 16-56 will benefit about 675 LIHEAP recipients.

Based on data provided by CUC executive director Antonio Muna to the House Ways and Means Committee, CUC has disconnected an average of 13 LIHEAP customers from June 2007 through May 2008.

In the past four months, a total of 35 LIHEAP customers were disconnected, but only one of them has been reconnected.

Muna said that none of the customers are delinquent because the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which administers the program, is delayed in remitting payment to CUC. He said a customer is delinquent when either the customer has not paid his or her share of the bill after the LIHEAP credit, or DCCA has transmitted the list of customers with the credit amounts late—i.e. after CUC runs its bills—or has missed to include a customer on its list. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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GUAM

From Page 1

Kube made the presentation about the U.S. military buildup during yesterday's kickoff of the 6th Micronesian Police Executives Association Meeting held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Rube talked about the training, infrastructure issues on Guam, and the need for guest workers. He also discussed the predicted timeline of the buildup, which is between 2010 and 2014.

He said around 12,000 guest workers are needed at the height of the buildup, but that doesn't mean that those numbers should be in Guam for the first year.

As the project goes on and construction increases, they anticipate up to that many guest workers, he said.

He said the military buildup would start in 2010 and increase over the years. The numbers of workers would start decreasing as the buildup becomes complete.

"And just like now, they will come under H-2 visas and will have three-year contracts and then they will leave," he said.

Rube said all benefits such as maintenance, health, housing, and other things associated with guest workers would be part of the contracts.

With respect to CNMI residents, Rube said the forecast is that 5,000 people may apply for jobs during the buildup.

On Tinian, there will be at least three training areas, seven training sites, and seven training ranges. He said Tinian would be mainly used for training areas, probably in 2012.

"Right now the U.S. government leases around two-thirds of the island and we anticipate using most of the land for training, but not on any permanent basis," he said.

Kube said the training on Tinian would be mainly on weapons type, unit trainings, Marine Corps maneuvering and live fires.

He said the activity on Tinian would provide some level of economic activity on the island, depending on how much infrastructure would be provided.

The $15-billion military buildup will take place following the relocation of 8,000 U.S. Marines and about 9,000 of their dependents to Guam from Okinawa, Japan.

GAO

From Page 1

slash the Commonwealth's gross domestic product by 50 percent or more.

The GAO report recommends that federal agencies "identify an interagency process to jointly implement" the new federalization law and that the agencies work together to "develop strategies to obtain critical data on the CNMI labor market and foreign investment," which the Fitial administration views as an acknowledgement that federal authorities lack the necessary research to reach a sound regulatory decision on the issue.

In a statement released Tuesday night, Fitial highlights the shortage of data in the report—noted by GAO at several points in its text—as a key factor and, in light of it, questions whether GAO's review was either necessary or useful.

"[T]he GAO concludes, even with the most favorable (and unrealistic) assumptions, that the law's implementation will most probably result in a 50 percent decline in the economic output of the Commonwealth by 2021 if not sooner," Fitial writes. "If this legislation had been considered on its merits by Congress in light of this GAO report, we cannot believe that the members would have decided to inflict this potentially devastating injury on the Commonwealth."

Fitial adds that CNMI officials had previously urged GAO to subject the report to independent peer review but the agency declined. In addition, he notes that the local government is now crafting its own economic impact study of federalization.

Beneficial

Rep. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, in a statement the same day welcomed the report and expressed optimism that federalization could prove beneficial to the CNMI.

"I am not surprised with GAO's findings with respect to the job of federal agencies in the coming months," Christensen said. "This transition can work and be beneficial to the CNMI economy and her people, but it will clearly need a collaborative effort from CNMI leadership and other stakeholders to be a success."

President Bush earlier this year signed legislation federalizing the CNMI's immigration and foreign labor rules, a move that the Fitial administration and many local business leaders have said will likely devastate the economy. Proponents of the new law, however, say it will safeguard foreign workers against abuse and stabilize the CNMI's workforce. Federal officials are now crafting regulations to implement the new law, which are due to be proposed later this year.

Disturbing

GAO's recognition that federal authorities need more data for decision-making is disturbing given the ongoing effort to craft immigration rules for the CNMI, Howard Willens, the governor's legal counsel, said in an interview Tuesday

"The report is disappointing in some of its limitations, disappointing in its timing and I wonder whether, given the fact that they don't really have any economic data with which to analyze the economic impact of the minimum wage and federal immigration laws and any other federal intervention here, they should have restrained themselves," he said. "It seems to me, if I was at one of the agencies writing the regs, I would want the data that GAO says they don't have."

GAO's report, Willens added, could harm investor confidence in the CNMI's economy and foster insecurity among local businesses. However, it could also back the administration's case in a lawsuit it is poised to file against the federal government over federalization's impact. Lawyers retained by the governor's office, he added, have recently completed a draft complaint and the governor will soon issue a final decision on whether to pursue the case.

"The report is relevant because what it does, even with all of its limitations, is basically support our conclusions with respect to the federalization law's deficiencies," Willens said. "Whether deficiencies of this kind amount to a successful lawsuit is something else."

Severe harm

Chief among the report's faults, according to a July 9 response letter the administration sent to GAO on the report, is its assessment of federalization's projected impact on the GDP of the CNMI. The report suggests—given the range of losses it details under several scenarios—that the GDP of the CNMI could see a "50-60 percent reduction" by 2021, the government writes in its response. News of this could harm the CNMI's economy severely, it adds.

"This confirmation by a prestigious federal agency of such a serious economic impact on the [CNMI] will have a devastating effect on our small islands, our businesses, our present and potential investors, our 30,000 United States citizens, and all of our residents," the response said, before requesting that GAO forego publishing the report.

Yet GAO notes in the report that these findings represent "only one possible outcome" that involves "the steepest decline" in the CNMI's foreign workforce of the possible scenarios presented. Other scenarios examined in the report could have a less serious economic impact, such as one projected to result in roughly a 15 to 36 percent GDP within the next 13 years.

"The actual extent of the legislation's impact on the CNMI economy will depend on the key federal decisions related to foreign workers, tourists, and foreign investors identified in our report, as well as other factors in the economy," the report says.

Among those decisions are the amount of permits for foreign workers federal officials will issue each year, whether to extend the permit program, which countries to include in visa waiver programs and how the new regulations will handle foreign investors, as noted in the report.

Nevertheless, Willens said the Fitial administration now faces a serious challenge in addressing GAO's findings, adding that it will likely consult lawmakers in the near future on how to proceed.

Range of impacts

Federal Labor Ombudsman James Benedetto, however, had a less dire interpretation of the report, saying GAO's review merely analyzed a host of prospective outcomes the CNMI could see as it moves toward federalization.

"I believe that what GAO has done is simply listed options in the universe of possibilities and impacts, ranging from one end of the spectrum to another end of the spectrum," he said.

GAO officials could not be reached for comment on the report at press time.

Statement of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's statement following the issuance of the Government Accountability Office report on the possible impact of federalization on the Commonwealth.

"Although GAO accepted some of our suggestions with respect to the draft report, the failure to produce the report before Congress acted on the legislation is very disappointing and the report's prediction of adverse impact on our economy as a result of the legislation is truly alarming.

"In our Comments to the GAO regarding its draft report, we stated that publication of the report *before* Congress acted on Public Law 110-229 as originally requested by six Members of Congress might have served a useful purpose. Notwithstanding its many limitations, the GAO report documents the fundamental flaws in this legislation. The report repeatedly emphasizes the absence of the necessary economic data based on which the implementing agencies might fairly assess the impact of their decisions on the economy and people of the Commonwealth. The report illustrates the wide range of discretionary decisions entrusted by the Congress to the federal agencies in the absence of any detailed legislative criteria. Lastly, the GAO concludes, even with the most favorable (and unrealistic) assumptions, that the law's implementation will most probably result in a 50-percent decline in the economic output (or GDP) of the Commonwealth by 2021 if not sooner.

"In our testimony before Congress in three committee hearings, the Commonwealth urged Congress to defer any final action on this legislation until the Members received a report from GAO. Six Members of Congress requested such a study in May 2007 to assist them in evaluating possible legislation. If this legislation had been considered on its merits by Congress in light of this GAO report, we cannot believe that the Members would have decided to inflict this potentially devastating injury on the Commonwealth. We believe that GAO's deference to Congressional staffers in changing the purpose of the requested report and delaying its publication raises serious questions about the independence and integrity of the agency.

"With respect to the report's prediction of adverse impact on the CNMI economy, we urged GAO not to publish this economic analysis and its projection of serious adverse impact on our community. In light of the report's consistent – and accurate—comments about the lack of reliable economic data, we are not convinced that GAO's analysis was either necessary or useful.

"We urged GAO to subject its analysis to a meaningful peer review by professional economists before publishing it. They refused to subject their assessment to independent economists not employed by the agency, which is the essence of peer review. We do not believe that such a serious assessment of economic injury with respect to any city, county, or State in the United States would have been published by GAO or any federal agency without this kind of peer review.

"The Commonwealth has currently engaged a team of economists to conduct a more detailed and professional assessment of the economic impact of recent federal legislation on the CNMI economy.

"We urge the Members of the Legislature and all interested citizens in the Commonwealth to read the GAO report, to consider its implications, and to participate in further discussions about how best to deal with the issues raised by this legislation."

ROTA

From Page 1

his report that when interrogated, Wilbur Inos surrendered the money and explained that he only did it because his son is in critical condition in Guam.

The amount of money was not indicated in the report.

Barcinas said a black AR-15 rifle, its magazine and three rounds of bullets were also recovered.

Police investigation showed that on Monday at 4:14am, a man had called the Rota Department of Public Safety, requesting assistance after an unknown person armed with a gun robbed the Rota Poker.

Police Sergeant Eusebio Manglona responded to the poker arcade and talked with the victim, who described the suspect as a masked man wearing a camouflage outfit. The victim told police that the suspect had pointed a rifle at him and demanded money.

Sgt. Mendiola then viewed the security camera of the establishment and determined that the footage corroborated the victim's statement.

The report did not indicate whether the victim is an employee or a customer of the establishment.

Detective Barcinas said a witness told Sgt. Manglona that he saw a short guy wearing camouflage clothes and a dark mask carrying a rifle and running across the Melchor Mendiola Memorial Park. The witness said the masked person was seen heading toward the barracks owned by Mayor Inos.

Sgt. Manglona proceeded on foot toward Mayor Inos' barracks where he spotted two individuals approaching a silver pickup truck that was parked in the front yard. With his gun ready, Sgt. Manglona ran toward the vehicle and ordered the two individuals to get off the vehicle.

The officer identified the passenger as Wilbur Inos and the person on the driver's side as Romy de Guzman. Wilbur Inos was allegedly seen sweating profusely and was only wearing a black underwear.

Wilbur Inos asked the officer what was going on, while De Guzman explained that he had just woken up and was going to drop his boss [Wilbur] at his house in the Liyu area.

When Sgt. Manglona asked Inos why he was only dressed in his underwear and where the rest of his clothes were, Wilbur Inos reportedly responded that the officer would do the same thing when it comes to his situation.

When the police officer asked him where the money and the gun were, the defendant allegedly gave the same answer.

Wilbur Inos then took out a green plastic bag from inside the truck's passenger side and placed it on top of the wooden toolbox on the truck's bed.

Wilbur Inos reportedly told the officer, "There's the money" and that he did it only because his son in Guam is in critical condition and might die.

The defendant allegedly kept asking the officer to just let him go and pretend that the officer never caught him.

Detective Barcinas said that when he arrived at the mayor's barracks, he heard Sgt. Manglona asking Wilbur Inos where he hid the gun.

Barcinas said Wilbur Inos told them that the rifle was at the back side of the barracks, but did not give specific details as to where he had placed the weapon.

Wilbur Inos allegedly stated there were three Filipinos who took the rifle and that it was part of their plan.

Sgt. Manglona saw a ladder extending to the roof of the barracks and instructed Barcinas to check the roof. Barcinas climbed the ladder and saw the rifle with its magazine intact on the roof.

At 5:25am that day, Wilbur Inos was transported to the police station for processing.

BOE interviews commissioner candidates today

By Kristi Eaton
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REPORTER

The Board of Education will be one step closer to naming a new Public Schools System commissioner after they interview the three candidates during a special meeting today.

The Board will interview candidates Debra Ellen; Ambrose M. Bennett, a former CNMI Board of Education teacher representative; and Rita Sablan, PSS associate commissioner for instruction. Sablan was an earlier applicant for the commissioner position in 2006.

The Board planned on naming a new commissioner by Aug. 1, but the date was pushed back after interviews were delayed.

"We are looking for a great educational and motivated leader who will improve our system and continue to raise our student achievement and ensure that our students leave the system equipped to face the challenges that the CNMI has in store," Board of Education Chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Blanco-Maratita

The position of commissioner requires a master's degree in an education field and at least five years experience teaching or in education administration. Candidates are also required to demonstrate knowledge of school systems, proficiency in English, and be a U.S. citizen or eligible to work in CNMI, according to the job vacancy announcement on PSS' Web site.

The salary for the full-time position is $60,000 to $80,000 with benefits.

The position was reportedly advertised in Hawaii and the U.S. mainland. Three off-island applications received were incomplete.

"We tried our best to advertise within our budgetary confines," Blanco-Maratita said.

Dr. David Borja was told by the BOE in June to step down or be fired.

WIC working on new data system—and power source

By Kristi Eaton
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health's Women, Infants and Children Program will soon be adopting a new computer system to expedite their services—if a reliable power source is available.

WIC is currently using a paper system, Program Director Josephine Tudela said, and a switch to the Arizona in Motion program, or AIM, would allow WIC to offer help to more people more efficiently.

AIM was developed in 1999 in response to Arizona's growing WIC program. American Samoa's chapter of WIC currently uses AIM.

"It will help immensely," she said. "Right now we're just doing everything on paper. With AIM, you get everything going in through their servers."

But because the records from the CNMI will be tied to records in Arizona, a key requirement in order to receive the program is reliable power, Tudela said.

"They have real concerns because it'll be connected to theirs," she said. "It could potentially cause major problems."

Tudela said there are power outages at the WIC Office on Navy Hill every day for two to four hours, sometimes from 2pm to the end of the day.

"So it's very frustrating," she said.

Nonetheless, representatives from WIC are continuing to train as if the switch will take place on Oct. 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year. Three WIC staff members are currently in Arizona learning to use the system, and two more are leaving shortly, Tudela said.

Representatives from Arizona are expected to visit the CNMI in October. Karen Sell, Arizona's WIC director, was in the CNMI in May to conduct preliminary reviews.

"There are just so many pieces that will be affected if we don't get AIM up and running," Tudela said.

She said the Department of Public Works has been looking at alternative forms of power such as windmills.

"They've been really good and trying really hard," she said.

Tudela has not sat down and totaled the cost of the different components that make up the system, but she said Guam's WIC program had a price tag in the millions of dollars.

"[AIM] won't be as much," she said. "It's very cost effective."

The Food Nutrition Service is shouldering the cost of the new system, she said.

According to CMA, a Web-based system developer that devised AIM, the system cut Arizona's contracted maintenance costs by 30 percent; overtime staff costs were reduced; and voided food instruments were reduced from 24 percent to 3 percent.

Red flag up at nine beaches

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on eight Saipan beaches and on Manahaga Island and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these sites for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches include S. Puerto Rico, Dai-Ichi drainage, Hafa-Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, CK Dist #4 drainage, Chalan Piao Beach, Hopwood School Beach, and the San Antonio Lift Station.

DEQ said that samples collected from these sites were found to contain excessive concentrations of the fecal indicator bacteria enterococci that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. This week, it obtained samples from 38 locations on Saipan's coast. It analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions. ***(DEQ)***

FEDERALIZATION CONCERNS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio talks to Freely Associated States citizens who have alien spouses during a meeting organized by the Coalition of United Workers (NMI) at Kilili Pavilion yesterday. The meeting aims to consolidate concerns related to the impending federalization of the CNMI's immigration system and the future status of these foreign-born spouses of FAS citizens.

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Power Plant 1 down to one power engine

Mechanical problems on three engines at Power Plant 1 left the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with only one engine running at the plant, resulting in more outages on Saipan yesterday

In a statement, CUC said that Engines No. 2, 6 and 8 at Power Plant 1 experienced some mechanical problems, forcing the agency to expand the previously announced load shedding schedule to include other areas of the electrical grid not previously scheduled.

"As a result of the three engines offline, Power Plant 1 was only generating power from one unit, therefore requiring CUC to implement extensive load shedding throughout the day," said CUC in the statement.

CUC said that at 8:36am yesterday, engine No. 8 was secured to perform exhaust valve replacement on cylinder No.5. Repair work on this unit is expected to be completed late afternoon today.

"Engine No. 6 requires cylinder head assembly, water pump bearing and lube oil purifier replacements, which are expected to be completed late [yesterday] afternoon," said the agency.

With the completion of the repairs on engines No. 2 and 6, CUC would be able to produce 10 megawatts and the previously promulgated load-shedding schedule for Aug. 5 - 8 will go into effect again, it said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

HOUSE RESOLUTION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naomi Eve Lujan-Gonzales, center, is presented with House Resolution 16-46 for her outstanding contribution to the CNMI as Law Revision Commission executive director. The resolution was presented by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, second from left,. Also in the photo, from left, are Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, CNMI Bar Association representative to the Law Revision Commission attorney Bruce L. Mailman, and Attorney General Mathew T. Gregory.

Tinian AmeriCorps members complete busy summer

By Kristi Eaton
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Most teenagers spent the summer months sleeping in until noon or swimming everyday, but for Tinian's eight AmeriCorps volunteers, summer meant working with young children and helping the community.

The volunteers spent their days working at the 2nd Annual Summer Library Reading Camp, where they helped 94 children read, make crafts and use the computer.

Tinian Public Library, AmeriCorps and Tinian Elementary School jointly sponsored the camp.

Four of the volunteers also helped with the Tinian Mayor's Office Romper Program. The volunteers, Tasha S. Cruz, Mary Joanne Daria, Eda Sakisat and Nisha Shrestha, recently took part in the Romper graduation this past weekend.

"I was so pleased. They did a great job with it," said Geri Willis, CNMI/PSS AmeriCorps program director.

The volunteers made slideshow CDs for the parents of the children, Willis said.

"The parents were saying, 'thank you so much for allowing your AmeriCorps students here,'" she added.

The AmeriCorps is currently taking applications for the program.

Selection criteria

■ Application—Obtain from school principal or AmeriCorps office

■ Copy of high school transcript stating that you have at least a 2.5 overall GPA on a 4.0 scale

■ At least 17 years old to be a member. Anyone can be an AmeriCorps volunteer. Members must show proof of U.S. citizenship, U.S. National, or lawful permanent resident of the U.S. Individuals in the U.S. with a work, student or tourist Visa are not eligible to be a member.

■ Excellent attendance record from high school

■ Two references with one being from a teacher

■ Parent recommendation form

■ One- to two-page essay on, "Why I want to become a teacher"

■ Police clearance (due after selected)

■ Health clearance (due after selected)

■ Insurance liability coverage/ release of liability letter (due after selected)

AmeriCorps program members are part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Members are paid a monthly stipend, and after the successful completion of 900 hours of community service, they are eligible for an Education Award worth $2,362.50.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AmeriCorps member Mary Joanne Daria with one of the Romper graduates.

Sorensen Media Group donates $2.24K to OES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sorensen Media Group operations manager Tina Palacios presents Oleai Elementary School acting principal Glenn Muna with the $2,236.62 check.

Oleai Elementary is more than $2,000 richer, thanks to a donation from Sorensen Media Group.

On Tuesday, Tina Palacios, operations manager for Sorensen, presented the school with an educational tax credit for $2,236.62.

Last year, Palacios decided all tax credits would go to CNMI public schools, not private schools, as had previously been the case.

"I went to private school, but I realized I should give it to someone who's not making money," she said.

On Monday, Palacios tried to donate the money to Hopwood Junior High School, a school Sorensen donated $2,700 in tax credits to in April, but because of scheduling conflicts, Palacios was not able to present the check to anyone.

The longer she waited to give the check away, the more it was taxed, so she decided to call Oleai Elementary instead, she said.

"I called the Oleai principal and said, 'I'll be there,'" she said. "Of course they said, 'I want it.'"

In April, Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*, Sorensen challenged all businesses, big or small, to donate their tax credit as well.

"It's a tax break. So why not give them to schools where they really need it. If everybody just helps each other out, surely we can overcome all of this," she said. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: July 29, 2008
Closing Date: August 15, 2008

Position: Housing Specialist I
Salary: PL 26/01 – 26/05 ($18,584.42–$22,578.96 P/A)
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, August 15, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than August 15, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

The House of Representatives
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, Saipan, MP 96950

POSTPONEMENT OF VILLAGE MEETING

Date: August 4, 2008 Contact: Representative Joseph C. Reyes
Telephone: (670) 664-8836
Facsimile: (670) 664-8838

Congressman Joseph C. Reyes wishes to inform the public that the scheduled Village Meeting on **August 6, 2008 in Koblerville** is being postponed until further notice. The participation of the public during the last two village meetings in Dandan and San Antonio have been a great success. The suggestions and recommendations of the residents of Precinct One are appreciated and will be taken seriously toward improving our community.

Again, the Congressman regrets of this postponement and urges his constituents to call his office at 664-8836 for any ideas and suggestions for the betterment of their respective community.

Thank you.

Representative Joseph C. Reyes

Tinian welcomes 13 students from Hiroshima

The Tinian Junior Senior High School welcomed 13 students and two teachers from their sister-school Koryo High School in Hiroshima, Japan. The 15 guests from Hiroshima represent the fourth time that students from the private high school had visited the island of Tinian.

This year's guests from Hiroshima include students Junya Kanayama, Yuto Hiyama, Mio Kanetada, Mai Kobayashi, Natsumi Kimura, Naoko Yamada, Kana Yamamoto, Kyoko Wakai, Saki Takano, Hitomi Egi, Taki Shimokon, Chiho Nomura, Yui Maezono and teachers Mathew Branch and Morihide Yonemasu.

The guests from Hiroshima were met at the Tinian harbor by students and faculty of Tinian High School and then bused to a welcome dinner at the Kammer beach main pavilion.

During the welcome dinner, students from Koryo High School were formally greeted by Eric San Nicolas and Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita. Japanese teacher Keiko Manglona served as translator during the welcoming events that featured remarks from student representatives from both high schools.

After the welcoming remarks, Koryo High School students were then introduced to their host students. The students from Japan will have the opportunity to experience island life by staying with Tinian students and their respective families for four nights.

When asked what value such cultural exchange programs represent, Blanco-Maratita said, "Cultural awareness and resetting tolerance is the key to world peace. Thus, this exchange between Tinian High School and Koryo High School is vital to teaching our kids to be tolerant, respectful, and accepting of other cultures. We hope that peace begins with these students."

For Koryo High School teacher Morihide Yonemasu, his first trip to Tinian was something special. His father, who had passed away last year at the age of 89, was a Japanese soldier who served in the South Pacific islands.

"I feel like my father would have told me, 'You should see the areas where I had been when I was young' and encouraged me to see these beautiful islands," says Yonemasu. When asked how he felt the students will view this trip, he said "These new experiences, learning from a different culture through interaction, is a very good thing and very exciting for our students."

During their stay on Tinian, the Koryo High School students and teachers will take part in island tours and cultural exchange activities such as origami, coconut weaving.

Students from Koryo High School will also take part in the 6th Annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony, and will take part in a special performance by Koryo High School during the evening Candlelight Peace Vigil on Aug. 6. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 13 students from Koryo High School in Hiroshima, Japan, standing, are joined by their counterparts from the Tinian Junior Senior High School during the welcome dinner at the Kammer beach main pavilion on Tinian.

Hyatt Regency Saipan goes green

Hyatt Regency Saipan has put together a committee composed of employees from operations and the executive department to implement hotel-wide programs to create environmental awareness and decrease environmental impact.

The F.O.R.C.E., which stands for Family of Responsible and Caring Employees, will focus on initiatives for water and energy management and conservation, waste reduction and recycling, and staff and community awareness campaigns.

"Our goal is to constantly invest in the protection of our environment which we predict will have a long lasting impact on the community as well," said Nick Nishikawa, general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan. "Our guests who have visited the Marianas always mention the beautiful skies and clean air. These are part of the reasons that visitors return to the islands year after year."

As part of the Green Team's campaign, changes have already taken place in all of the hotel's departments. The engineering department started energy conservation over two years ago by using energy efficient light bulbs that significantly reduced the consumption of energy, and organizes the recycling of biodegradable products. Hotel memos and announcements are sent through the e-mail, reducing the use of Xerox paper. From the kitchen to the spa, locally grown products are brought for use in the menu.

Josephine Mesta, the chair for the Communication and Awareness committee said, "The committees develop the Green Team campaigns and search for ways to educate the Hyatt employees."

"By educating the staff, we can hope for them to drive changes at home and beyond the workplace," Mesta added.

Global Hyatt Corporation, one if the world's premier hotel companies with properties in 45 countries, operates 368 hotels worldwide and currently has properties under development on five continents.

From the U.S. and Canada, reservations for any Hyatt hotel worldwide may be obtained by calling 1-800-233-1234 or visiting www.hyatt.com. ***(PR)***

MPLT MEETING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno Fitial talks with Marianas Public Land Trust board chair Alvaro Santos during a meeting at the MPLT office in Oleai on Monday.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
STADT HAMBURG	020E	7/26 Sat	7/24 Thu	7/24 Thu	7/31 Thu	7/15 Tue	7/19 Sat	8/1 Fri	7/28 Mon	7/27 Sun	7/22 Tue	7/13 Sun	7/28 Mon	8/1 Fri	8/2 Sat
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/2 Sat	7/31 Thu	7/31 Thu	8/7 Thu	7/22 Tue	7/26 Sat	8/8 Fri	8/4 Mon	8/3 Sun	7/29 Tue	7/20 Sun	8/4 Mon	8/8 Fri	8/9 Sat
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/9 Sat	8/7 Thu	8/7 Thu	8/14 Thu	7/29 Tue	8/2 Sat	8/15 Fri	8/11 Mon	8/10 Sun	8/5 Tue	7/27 Sun	8/18 Mon	8/15 Fri	8/16 Sat
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/16 Sat	8/14 Thu	8/14 Thu	8/21 Thu	8/5 Tue	8/9 Sat	8/22 Fri	8/18 Mon	8/17 Sun	8/12 Tue	8/3 Sun	8/25 Mon	8/22 Fri	8/23 Sat
MELL SENOKO	009E	8/23 Sat	8/21 Thu	8/21 Thu	8/28 Thu	8/12 Tue	8/16 Sat	8/29 Fri	8/25 Mon	8/24 Sun	8/19 Tue	8/10 Sun	9/1 Mon	8/29 Fri	8/30 Sat
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	8/30 Sat	8/28 Thu	8/28 Thu	9/4 Thu	8/19 Tue	8/23 Sat	9/5 Fri	9/1 Mon	8/31 Sun	8/26 Tue	8/17 Sun	9/8 Mon	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	020E	8/8 Fri	8/9 Sat	8/9 Sat	SKIP	8/13 Wed	8/15 Fri	8/16 Sat	8/19 Tue	8/22 Fri	8/23 Sat	8/28 Thu	8/26 Tue	8/24 Sun	8/27 Wed
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/15 Fri	8/16 Sat	8/16 Sat	8/19 Tue	8/20 Wed	8/22 Fri	8/16 Sat	8/23 Sat	8/22 Fri	8/30 Sat	9/4 Thu	9/2 Tue	8/24 Sun	9/3 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/22 Fri	8/23 Sat	8/23 Sat	SKIP	8/27 Wed	8/29 Fri	8/23 Sat	8/30 Sat	8/29 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/2 Tue	8/31 Sun	9/10 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/29 Fri	8/30 Sat	8/30 Sat	9/2 Tue	9/3 Wed	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	8/6 Wed	8/29 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/9 Tue	8/31 Sun	9/17 Wed
MELL SENOKO	009E	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/6 Sat	SKIP	9/10 Wed	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	8/13 Wed	9/5 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/16 Tue	9/7 Sun	9/24 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue	9/17 Wed	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	8/20 Wed	9/12 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/13 Sat	10/1 Wed

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Moving the world

FHB's Tamuning branch is new island landmark

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank's new state-of-the-art Tamuning Branch was unveiled to the public Saturday. The branch is centrally located at Route 1 on South Marine Corps Drive in the heart of the commercial district. The major 10,425 square foot, full-service branch offers consumer banking, business banking, and investment personnel with the convenience of 70 parking stalls, as well as drive-through tellers and ATM stations.

"The purchase of property, building construction, and technology installation represents a significant investment and underscores our long-term confidence and commitment to Guam," said Don Horner, First Hawaiian Bank president and CEO.

"We are very pleased with our new Tamuning Branch," says Senior Vice President, Guam and CNMI Region Manager, Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, explaining that the building's design and local artwork reflect elements of Guam's rich history and culture. "It's part of First Hawaiian's commitment to Guam and our island community."

The branch's island theme makes it a warm and inviting place for customers to do their banking. The most advanced state-of-the art technology is employed throughout the branch which offers a complete line of products and services from checking and savings accounts, commercial and consumer lending, retirement planning, insurance and estate planning. Customers (personal, business, or private banking) may also be assigned a dedicated banker to meet all their financial needs in one convenient location.

The smaller, original Tamuning Branch located at Photo Town Plaza suite 101, 353 Chalan San Antonio, closed on Friday, Aug. 1, and the new Tamuning Branch officially opened for business Monday, Aug. 4, at 9am.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with assets of $12.75 billion was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. This year the bank is celebrating 150 years in business, including 38 years on Guam. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. ***(FHB)***

Monday was USCG Day

The CNMI celebrated Coast Guard Day on Aug. 4, 2008, to honor the establishment on that day in 1790 of the Revenue Cutter Service, forerunner of today's Coast Guard. On that date, Congress, guided by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, authorized the building of a fleet of ten cutters, whose responsibility would be enforcement of the first tariff laws enacted by Congress under the Constitution.

The Coast Guard has been continuously at sea since its inception; although, the name Coast Guard didn't come about until 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service was merged with the Lifesaving Service. The Lighthouse Service joined the Coast Guard in 1939, followed in 1946 by the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection. In 1967, after 177 years in the Treasury Department, the Coast Guard was transferred to the newly formed Department of Transportation. In 2003, the Coast Guard became a member of the Department of Homeland Security where it remains today.

Coast Guard Day is primarily an internal activity for Coast Guard active duty, reservist, civilian, and auxiliarist personnel and their families to celebrate the Coast Guard's many accomplishments. ***(PR)***

SSHS registration schedule

All students that have been evaluated and graduated from Hopwood are required to register. You are not officially enrolled if your parents/legal guardians did not submit a registration form.

Forms can be picked up from the SSHS Office and submitted by Aug. 22, 2008 for you to be enrolled in SSHS.

All returning students that attended last year must return all your textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class schedule.

Schedules Pickup

Schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling Office as follows:

Seniors (12th)	Sept. 2, 2008	8am to 1pm
Juniors (11th)	Sept. 3, 2008	8am to 1pm
Sophomores (10th)	Sept. 4, 2008	8am to 1pm

New Student Orientation & Class Schedule:

Sept. 5, 2008, 9am to 11am: All transfer and new student coming from private or public school are *required* to attend the orientation with their parents or legal guardians. Schedules will be passed out after orientation.

If you have any questions about registration or orientation, call 664-4000 or 237-3710. ***(PR)***

SUNDAY BLAZE
Attorney Michael Dotts is surrounded by burned documents and other materials inside the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes on the second Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. The fire occurred early Sunday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PAWS CORNER

Beautiful spayed cat for adoption

A beautiful spayed female cat is up for adoption to a good home. Apaka is about 5 1/2 years old, all white except for her tail, she has one blue and one green eye. She is an indoor cat only, as she is possibly deaf in one ear due to a genetic defect and she is de-clawed. She is current on her vaccinations. She does not meow a lot but prefers to communicate by rubbing up against someone when she needs something.

Apaka's family loves her dearly but can no longer afford to care for her. Therefore, they are seeking a loving and responsible home that will continue to care for her indoors and ensure that she receives yearly examinations by a veterinarian.

If you are interested in adopting Apaka, contact Joseph Cabrera at 484-0632 or 234-1513. Alternatively, you may contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 06, 1999

Worst is over for NMI—economist
Citing improvements on the island's gross revenue and gross business receipts, the worst of economic decline is probably over for the CNMI, according to Wali M. Osman, vice president and regional economist of Bank of Hawaii. Osman explained: "We are literally at the trough of the cycle. But the question is when do we get out of the trough and how rapidly?"

Legislators to US Congress: Probe Stayman, too
Former Insular Affairs Director Allen P. Stayman must be investigated for his possible involvement with Interior official David North's on-the-job political campaign, local lawmakers said yesterday. This move could also help shed light on the series of probe by Office of Insular Affairs -- through a private investigator hired and paid for by the federal government which was directed against the Northern Marianas, according to Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes.

22 garment firms in lawsuit want to be tried separately
The 22 garment companies named in the class action suit asked the federal court yesterday to try their cases separately, saying each of them is surrounded by different circumstances. Lawyers for the plaintiffs, on the other hand, opposed the defendants' motion to break up the case maintaining that all allegations raised in the lawsuit are identical and inter-related. US District Court Judge Alex Munson heard yesterday the oral arguments of lawyers for both parties.

August 06, 2001

Hotels feel the pinch of low visitor arrivals
Seven of the 10 major hotels on the island have admitted to feeling the pinch of the economic slowdown, saying that the crisis has adversely impacted their revenues in the last three years. Reports circulating around the Commonwealth's hotel industry claimed at least six hotels have been toying with the idea of filing for bankruptcy.

Dangers of job come without pay
"You'll never know when you're going to die. Just be prepared for your funeral." The remark came from a police officer of the Department of Public Safety who is one of those who were tasked to protect more than 60,000 residents of Saipan, Tinian and Rota. At present, there are only over 350 DPS personnel in the CNMI's three major islands, thus making the demands of police work more pressing. In Tinian, there was even a time weeks back that police officers had to contend with patrolling the island on foot in the absence of a running vehicle.

Senate earmarks $6.2M for educational facilities
A total of $2.62 million were re-appropriated by the Senate on Thursday to fund capital improvement projects in Precinct 1 and various educational facilities in the Commonwealth. During Thursday's regular session, the Upper Chamber passed House Bill 12-373 that realigned $2.12 million from Public Law 11-79 to fund several CIP projects in Precinct 1 and House Bill 12-237 that reallocated the $500,000 that was originally allotted for the Tatachog Library. Both bills sailed through the Senate on unanimous votes.

August 06, 2002

DPS forms task force to curb criminality
Virtually everyday for the last seven years, an average of nine victims have complained about being burglarized, robbed or being taken advantaged of by lawless elements in the community. According to statistics shared by the Department of Public Safety, a total of 24,984 cases of vandalism, robberies, burglaries and other forms of theft have been reported to authorities from June 9, 1995 until July 31, 2002.

No need to panic, govt in good fiscal shape—Heinz
A meeting between House leaders and Department of Finance officials has convinced lower chamber lawmakers that the $18 million projected deficit is a red herring that is partly untrue and that the government is, in fact, in much better shape than what the administration is painting it to be. That said, the House of Representatives still wants the Babauta administration to proceed with the cost-cutting measures that were outlined in the letter that acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente had sent to lawmakers last Friday.

Guam, Saipan musicians make history in China

ON THE NET

http://beijing2008olympi-corchestra.com

For the past several weeks, eight musicians from Saipan have been rehearsing with the Guam Territorial Band, to prepare for performances at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

On Sunday, the group finally had its first performance, playing music with the 2,008-member strong Olympic Orchestra made up of musicians from China, the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Guam.

Sunday's performance was historic in that it was the first time foreigners performed at the iconic Tiananmen Square. The Guam and Saipan band members performed again on Monday, at the Great Wall.

Here are some pictures of the group:

The Saipan and Guam contingent of the Olympic Orchestra pose at the Grand Epoch City in Beijing, China
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First day of rehearsal.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan members (front row) join the Guam Territorial Band in Tiananmen Square to perform for the Beijing 2008 Olympics.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fitting for costumes.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some members of the Guam Territorial Band pose soon after arriving in Beijing.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rehearsal.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 214

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Great expectations

Seven years ago, when Olympic organizers awarded the 2008 Summer Games to Beijing, there were high hopes that the event would force China to open its society and foster greater respect for human rights. "This is a very important step in the evolution of China's relationship with the world," said former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, architect of another important step in that evolution in the 1970s.

Yet on the day of the announcement in July 2001, CBS News reported that government officials in Beijing had forbidden the network from transmitting video footage for a news story on the Falun Gong religious movement. That should have been taken as an omen.

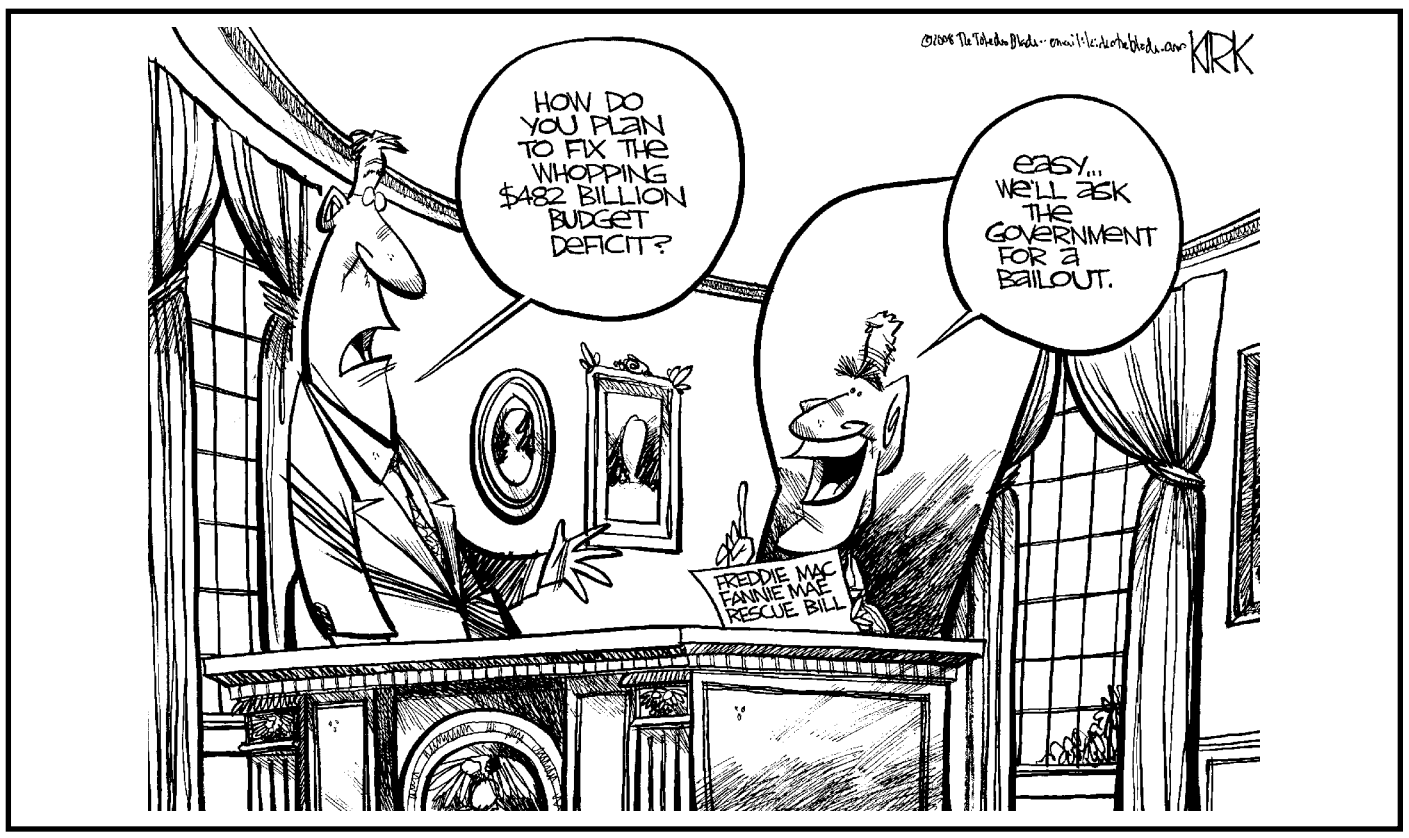
Contrary to the fondest hopes of the likes of Kissinger and former International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, China is not moving forward. If anything, Beijing's paranoia about foreign and domestic threats to its power has only been heightened by the international spotlight cast by the Olympics. Human rights organization Amnesty International reports that the government has stepped up detentions of individuals who threaten the "harmony" of the Games, and despite assurances that foreign journalists would have free access to the Internet, Beijing is blocking Web sites that it finds politically troublesome. The Games have done next to nothing to discourage China from propping up a genocidal regime in Sudan, nor did they prevent the brutal repression of Tibetan protests this spring.

Meanwhile, the government's assurances that it would clear up Beijing's filthy skies in time for the Games now look like so much hot air. Conditions are so bad that current IOC chief Jacques Rogge has warned that outdoor endurance events may have to be postponed.

This isn't the first time a totalitarian regime has hosted the Olympics, and it usually hasn't turned out well. Adolf Hitler used the 1936 Games as a propaganda tool for the Third Reich. Soviet leaders wanted to do the same in 1980, though a U.S.-led boycott spoiled those plans and turned that summer's event in Moscow into a farce. Of course, sometimes the Olympics can have a progressive effect—many believe that the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul helped speed South Korea's democracy movement. But it's looking increasingly unlikely that China will follow that example.

Beijing wasn't ready for the Olympics in 2001, when it was selected to host the Games, and days before the opening ceremonies, it still isn't ready. That's something the IOC should ponder the next time it's tempted to try to spread freedom via freestyle.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times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KIRK
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO FIX THE WHOPPING $482 BILLION BUDGET DEFICIT?
easy... WE'LL ASK THE GOVERNMENT FOR A BAILOUT.
FREDDIE MAC FANNIE MAE RESCUE BILL

Island Business Link: 675 members and counting!

With the growth of the Internet, it is a natural tool for island businesses

BY DEBBIE WISSEL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Debbie Wissel is a 2008 Island Fellow with the U.S. Department of the Interior assigned to the Northern Mariana Islands.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Since my two-week visit to the Northern Marianas, over 675 members have registered on Island Business Link! As a 2008 Island Fellow with the U.S. Department of the Interior I traveled to Saipan, Tinian and Rota to introduce the new networking site and business tool. Now, back in Washington DC, I hope that island businesses continue to use the site so that international partners are aware of the many business opportunities available in CNMI!

Island Business Link was developed by the U.S. Department of the Interior to connect business owners in the Freely Associated States and territories to off-island partners seeking to invest in businesses on the islands. This site builds upon the DOI's successful "Secretary's Fourth Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands," but unlike the Conference, Island Business Link is available year-round, is free and readily accessible to those not able to travel.

"This site is much more than a yellow pages. It provides two major advantages over a mere internet business listing site," says Angela Williams, Economic Policy Advisor for the Office of Insular Affairs. "It allows business owners to describe their opportunities and put them right in the investor's line of sight on our opportunities list. However, because it is free, people sometimes underestimate the power of the networking link."

That could explain why there are far fewer opportunities posted on the site than there are registered island members. The business opportunity list is designed to introduce business ideas that are ripe for partnerships and investment. Partner members appreciate the convenience of it and enjoy searching those listings. Many island members need to take the next step and post their opportunities in order to be seen on the list.

Though the Island Business Link is primarily targeted toward small- and medium-sized business owners, there are already large contracting and investment partners registered who are able to work on larger scale projects—illustrating that more technical and higher dollar opportunities can also benefit from being listed on Island Business Link.

In fact, the secret to the Island Business Link's success is that its partner list is primarily drawn from the past attendees of the Department of the Interior's Annual Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands and those who traveled on business opportunities missions to the islands. The next conference will be held in Honolulu on April 6-8, 2009, and more information can be found at www.islandbusinessopportunities.com.

Island Business Link is being rolled out to interested partners worldwide. For example, it will be introduced to the Australian and Asian markets this week. In addition, the DOI is actively targeting new companies and industries that would be interested in opportunities in the islands. If you have a specific business or partner you would like to see listed, please email us at info@islandbusinessopportunities.com and we will contact them for you.

The Department of the Interior is working to improve Island Business Link and welcomes your feedback and suggestions. Directions for registering and posting opportunities, as well as giving feedback, can be found below, and, for more information, go to www.islandbusinesslink.com.

HOW TO BECOME AN ISLAND MEMBER

If you haven't become an island member yet here are the steps:

1. Visit www.islandbusinesslink.com and click on "New Members Register here"
2. Input your name and briefly describe your business/service.
3. In order to be recognized by partners, go to "Search/Post Business Opportunities" and Add a New Business Opportunity. Please note this function does not have spell check so please proof read carefully.
4. Visit the site regularly to search what partner members are looking for. You can contact Partners through the site and target your opportunity to them.

TIPS FOR CURRENT ISLAND MEMBERS

Finally, the Island Fellows have a few quick tips for those of you who have already become members to keep the site's momentum building.

1. CHECK YOUR E-MAIL. At least once a week. There are responses already to postings and you have to respond in a timely manner while people are interested in what you are offering.
2. DO NOT WAIT TO POST AN OPPORTUNITY. Clarify and promote your opportunity on the site as soon as possible! Partner members go directly to look through the site's opportunity listings to see what you have to offer. If you don't have an opportunity listed there you will miss out. Remember, you can add a picture too. If you have questions about how to do this contact your local small business development center.
3. SPREAD THE WORD. The more developed and enticing opportunities on the site the better it is for all of CNMI and for the all of the territories and Freely Associated States. There is so much possibly and value here and the Island Link allows you to share that with the world. If a partner signs up to the site and does not find a match on their first visit it is really important that they are impressed and check back frequently for something that does work for them.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Flatland

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

I believe I am here for a particular purpose. I believe I am here to tell a story. I believe that the story I am here to tell is the story of my own life. I believe that the purpose of that story is to inspire, empower and equip others to transition.

Transition is about change—conscious change, deliberate change, intentional change, empowered change.

I believe, too, that part of my mission and role is to stand as testament to, and be a living example of the thoughts and actions which lead to empowered change. In other words, I am here to live the life of my dreams simply to show others it can be done. This life shall question what I believe is real; challenge what I believe about myself, about others, about the world and about the universe I live in. In this life I shall walk where others believe there is no footing; I shall act where there is no script; I shall take risks without the assurance of success.

Here's how it works: The quest for my own enlightenment and happiness puts me on a path and attracts certain experiences which I then document for the benefit of helping others to do the same or something similar. I am here to live an experience, process it, analyze it, explain it and teach it to others in the form of my own story.

If all goes well, I'll be doing a workshop on Saipan in a few weeks. When I do my workshops, I usually begin with the telling of such a story—the story of how I went from being an employee to being an entrepreneur, then nomadpreneur, then Saipanpreneur, and share some of the thoughts and feelings that motivated me to do so.

Since our time during the workshop may be limited, we can get started right now. Here then, is the introduction to the upcoming workshop in the form of an excerpt from my book, *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*—a part of my story I call "Flatland."

"Within the first 15 minutes of my first assignment on my first day of work at my first job, I realized beyond the shadow of a single doubt that I hated being there. What I saw on that day scared me to the core, and haunted me until I left seven years later. I saw mostly men, and a few women, who were living lives of quiet desperation. People who, at age 50 and above, had spent their lives allowing their dreams, and thus their spirits, to stagnate. I met men who long ago had given up dreaming about doing more, and who had resigned themselves to live out their most productive years in the claustrophobic confines of cubicles engaged in personally unfulfilling work just for the sake of a paycheck. I met others who, at my young age of 21, were already planning their retirement. I met people who had bought into someone else's roles and expectations and were acting out the script without question or concern that there was something more.

They reminded me of the characters in *Flatland* by Edwin A. Abbott, a book I read in high school geometry class. The inhabitants of Flatland are paper-thin geometric shapes living on a flat surface, who think only in one dimension since the concept of height is one that has no meaning in their world. I felt like that lone inhabitant who discovers the existence of a third physical dimension. He is met with resistance, ridicule and scorn, but perhaps, most frustratingly of all, there was simply no one else he could relate to or who could understand him.

As I met more and more of my co-workers, I felt more and more alone, for I had less and less in common with them. They all relished the comfort of working at what veteran employees called "the country club": a worker's paradise known for its great benefits, little real stress, and which rarely, if ever, laid people off. Many felt they had truly made it, and that all there was left to do was fit in, make as few waves as possible, draw a steady paycheck, earn their yearly 2 percent raise, and enjoy the ride. They were one-dimensional figures living in a mental flatland, unaware or unwilling to conceive of anything more.

My soul felt imprisoned, and I was determined to set it free. Unlike most of my "flatland" coworkers, I dreamed of more. I dreamed of doing something that I could really get excited about. I dreamed of a lifestyle where, instead of being locked away from the world for a third of my life during the daylight hours of every day, I would have the freedom to decide when to rise, when to have lunch, when to work and when to relax. One of my fantasies was simply having the freedom to go see a movie in the middle of the day. I spent the next seven years doing everything within my power to realize that dream….

…Yes, it took me several years to do it, but I've created my own perfect Passion Profit lifestyle. I'm earning money in ways that allow me the most freedom. I create new products using my talent for writing and my skill at teaching to share what I know so that others may grow. The products are advertised in classified ads run in specific trade magazines, and by word of mouth, giving me the benefits of a 24-hour sales force. They are also marketed over the Internet, which provides me with a 24-hour storefront operation which doesn't require my presence. Customers order my products online or by mail, and a fulfillment company ships out the orders. I can run my business from a laptop on a beach, and don't ever need to be tied down to any particular place. I've turned my passion into profit, making money doing what I love, helping others to do the same, and, true to my personal vision of freedom, I finally have control of my days to go see movies in the middle of the afternoon!"

[end of excerpt; for the full story, including childhood influences, and my Prisoner of War experience at 7-years of age, you'll have to pick up a copy of the book-- which I'll have at the workshop]

Yes, to change, we must be willing to question what we believe is real; challenge what we believe about ourselves, about others, about the world and about the universe we live in. We must be willing to walk were we believe there is no footing; act where there is no script; take risks without the assurance of success. Whether that change is a new job, a new life, or a new relationship, change requires that we see beyond the limited dimensions of our current existence, and move out of Flatland. See you on the other side!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

***Note**: There's a new blog in town! Check out www.blacksonsaipan.com*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Thank you to UIC and Onwel

With the recent announcements by United International Corp. and Onwel Garment Manufacturers that their operations will close later this month and the next, there's not a lot left of Saipan's garment industry, nor a lot left that can be said.

Putting aside the division between those that supported the industry and those that went to every length to get rid of it, I believe there's something most important that needs to be said to these two factory owners that recently announced their closures two weeks ago.

Maybe more than the others that have gone before them, these two owners had excellent relationships with their clients and their employees and with Saipan.

To James Lin at United International Corp., and to Michael Leung at Onwel, from me for the people who haven't said anything yet, or for the people who can't find a way to do it, or for those who really don't understand it, I want to thank you for every one of the thousands and thousands of jobs you provided people from Saipan, the Philippines, Thailand, China, all the Micronesian islands and everywhere else in the world that you employed.

I want to thank you for everything you did for those employees who, in turn, did what they did for their families.

I thank you for what you did for the CNMI with the millions and millions of dollars you contributed in taxes and government fees while you made clothing for America's department stores. By my estimation, UIC has easily paid over $100 million to the CNMI in user fees and payroll taxes alone since they established their operations.

And, as a business owner, I thank you for helping me with my business serving you. Everyone would surely thank you if they knew how much you gave to churches, schools and the community over the past 20 years.

Thank you for everything you've done for everyone.

I got a telephone call from someone in the U.S. today telling me about another pathetic Bill Moyer exposé on Jack Abramoff, and his relationship with the CNMI and Saipan's garment industry. It's amazing that people still think there's a question about whether the industry was good, or bad, for people here. Not there, here.

That's the division I wanted to put aside for this letter. That's the tragicomedy of the story about the industry. People today, with a presidential election looming in the United States, still want to climb aboard the Saipan garment industry to get political mileage out of an industry that provided so much and was meaningful to those living here. Trust me, this story will be told and retold until it's absolutely lost all semblance of the truth.

In James Lin's factory entrance foyer there's a letter from a visiting U.S. congressman who toured United International Corp. in the '90s. The letter personally thanks Mr. Lin for the tour of his excellent facility and wishes him well.

That letter is from the same U.S. Representative who just before his last re-election bid ran the same old lame "indentured servitude, sweatshop, abortion and injured workers" boilerplate.

That Representative's state has the largest sweatshop industry in the United States and strong campaign funding unions that filed suit in U.S. District with class action attorneys recently convicted and jailed for their dirty and illegal work.

That's the CNMI's friend, Congressman George Miller.

Miller, like a lot of others, champions himself for the humungous work done on Saipan in eliminating the on-again, off-again horrible situations that now either do, or don't, exist, depending upon the mainland election cycle.

And, that's too bad. While Mr. Lin and Mr. Leung were providing for so many, and lost in all the political noise, is what actually happened inside the Saipan garment industry while all the pathetic political parasites attached themselves to their host.

The industry was cleaned up. No one has ever said, most assuredly me, that there were no problems inside this industry. The shame is that it's as if nothing ever changed. That the industry is as it was 15 years ago, according to *Ms. Magazine*, Bill Moyer and all the Johnnie-come-lately labor activist on a soapbox types.

I, personally, thank Mr. Lin and Mr. Leung and all the others that did the right thing over the past decade in protecting their employees, their investments and the CNMI. Thank you.

Richard A. Pierce
As Mahetog, Saipan

The proposed monument up north

The difficulty I have with this proposal is the explanation by outside proponents that there would be over $300 million in benefits for the CNMI. This grand and equally imbecilic presentation reminds me of the proposed military buildup on Tinian since 30 years ago that never took place.

In other words, it's all public relations stunt without concretes!

We waited for the Tinian buildup in earnest enthusiasm because we wanted to see the economic benefits of such a plan. Little did we know that no one in Washington was advocating for fund authorization and appropriation to see this proposal through. It died a silent death in the Marianas Trench.

It is now 30 years since the agreement was signed. Three decades of setback in the livelihood of our people as we watch the apparel industry sail into the sunset. Agile proponents of federalization of labor and immigration have succeeded in the fatal blow to this industry, but equally imprisoned by its fragility to ensure that some form of economic cushion is provided the CNMI to begin anew.

In short, let us dispose of what's ours since the dawn of man in these isles. We no longer appreciate being told what to do especially on matters affecting what is rightfully the property of the indigenous people. Enough is enough! Has it ever occurred to you that we also *know best* what's *best for us?*

Dalai ya para in` sige ha` kume dispone i propiadat natibu sin antao na konsientimenton i man-dueño? Esta nina` fan tataimamahlao hamyo umatrebi kumechule inyun natibu sa guaha buente otro planon miyo? Gi fino man-amko, polu ha` i tase yan tano mame sa` ti u fan man-gagao na`niha. Komprende?

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light south winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

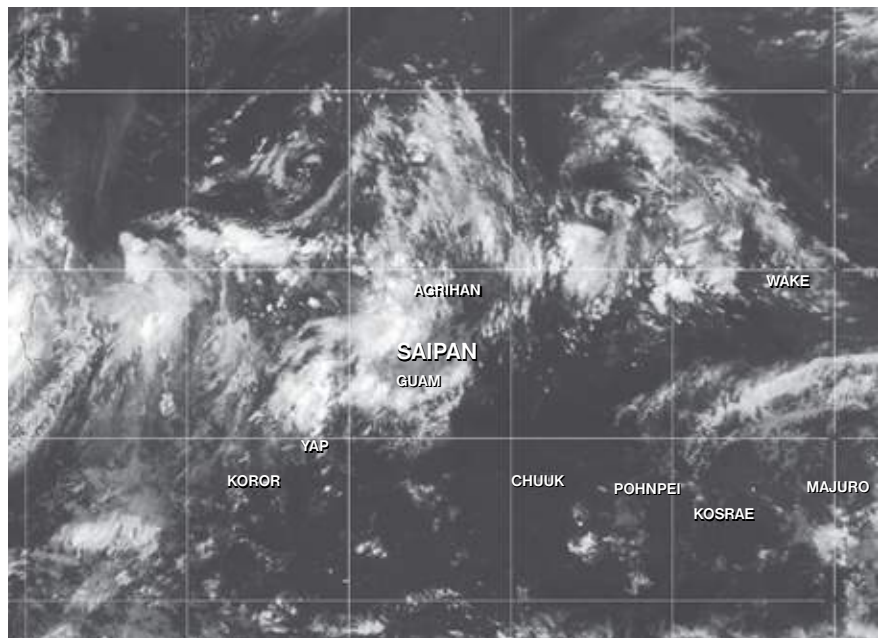
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼71
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼72

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲58	▼47
Beijing	Showers	▲84	▼76
Hong Kong	Rain	▲87	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲73	▼65
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲56	▼38
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲83	▼70
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼70
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲91	▼70
Salem	Cloudy	▲87	▼59
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼69
Tokyo	Showers	▲85	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲92	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Southwesterly convergence associated with low pressure centered near 25N140E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Northern Mariana Islands in an area west of a line from 12N130E to 15N147E to 23N144E to 22N130E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a widespread area from Pohnpei. Eastward across Kosrae and the Marshall Islands. The area is between 2N and 11N from 158E to beyond the dateline. An upper-level low centered northwest of Wake Island at 24N157E along with upper-divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms around Wake Island within an area bounded by a line from 23N152E to 16N159E to 19N170E to 25N161E back to 23N152E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:21AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:51AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:10PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:16PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	6:01AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:01AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:03AM	10:01PM
Thursday	10:53AM	10:39PM
Friday	11:44AM	11:19PM
Saturday	12:35AM	
Sunday	1:27PM	12:02AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
Saipan-Rota				**Rota-Saipan**			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Saipan-Guam				**Guam-Saipan**			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily	CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita				**Narita-Saipan**			
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily	NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily
Saipan-Osaka				**Osaka-Saipan**			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya				**Nagoya-Saipan**			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Saipan-Seoul				**Seoul-Saipan**			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan				**Busan-Saipan**			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila				**Manila-Guam**			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
				CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6	CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7				
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily	CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou				**Guanzhou-Saipan**			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Guam-Hongkong				**Hongkong-Guam**			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5	CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota				**Rota-Guam**			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,900.300
Down 57.300
(-1.16%)

HONG KONG
22,012.03
Down 502.89
(-2.23%)

JAKARTA
2,191.626
Down 36.0491
(-1.62%)

TOKYO
12,966.63
Up 33.45
(+0.26%)

K. LUMPUR
1,148.68
Down 10.42
(-0.90%)

MANILA
2,602.38
Up 2.39
(+0.09%)

SINGAPORE
2,835.76
Down 40.32
(-1.40%)

SEOUL
1,537.66
Down 5.39
(-0.35%)

BANGKOK
667.68
Down 6.99
(-1.04%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,284.15
-42.17

NASDAQ
2,285.56
-25.40

S&P
1,249.01
-11.30

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0823
British Pound	0.5103
Canadian Dollar	1.0414
Chinese Renmbi	6.8514
Euro	0.644
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8046
Indian Rupee	42.288
Indonesian Rupiah	9083
Japanese Yen	108.2
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2688
New Zealand Dollar	1.3785
Philippine Peso	44.12
Singapore Dollar	1.3747
South Korean Won	1017.5
Swiss Franc	1.0509
Taiwan Dollar	30.725
Thailand Baht	33.595

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Rising prices stifle impact of stimulus payments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rising prices, falling home values, stagnant wages and tight credit. It's a potent combination that has struck the American consumer hard.

In June, the second biggest rise in prices in nearly three decades muted the impact of billions of dollars in government stimulus payments, government figures showed Monday.

Incomes barely budged in June and consumer spending retreated after taking into account the higher prices for food, energy and other items, the Commerce Department data show.

It's forcing Americans like Kathy Stanley, of rural Franklin County west of St. Louis, to decide every day what they can and cannot afford, even for staples.

Stanley said Monday that rising gasoline prices had eaten into her budget so drastically that she and her husband have eliminated almost all their discretionary spending.

She said she spent only about one-third what she normally does on her daughter's back-to-school clothes and has even cut back on staple items as food prices have jumped this year.

"I had to cut back on milk," she said. "We just drink more water."

Consumer spending was up 0.8 percent in May and 0.6 percent in June, the Commerce Department said. Those increases were slashed to a modest 0.3 percent increase in May and a drop of 0.2 percent in June, however, when adjusted for rising prices of gasoline, food and other products. Incomes rose just 0.1 percent.

An inflation gauge tied to consumer spending jumped by 0.8 percent in June. That was the second biggest monthly increase since 1981. In September 2005, the gauge rose by 1 percent after Hurricane Katrina shut down Gulf Coast oil facilities and sent energy prices soaring.

Economists said the surge in energy and food prices had dampened the impact of the government's economic stimulus program which was pumping out $76 billion in payments during May and June as Washington sought to keep the economy from falling into a deep recession.

"You've got declining home prices, very tight credit conditions, a soft jobs market and a weak stock market. The consumer has got a lot to deal with," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors, a Denver-based consulting firm.

Stocks decline after oil falls sharply

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street fell Monday in an erratic session dominated by worries about inflation—which were somewhat soothed by a plunge in oil prices that took crude to its lowest level in three months.

Oil has now fallen nearly $26, or 17.6 percent, since it reached a trading high of $147.27 on July 11; Monday's close was its lowest since it settled at $120.36 on May 5.

Oil's retreat was welcome news to a stock market that initially sold off after the Commerce Department said an inflation gauge tied to consumer spending had surged 0.8 percent in June, reflecting higher gasoline prices. That was the biggest jump in the indicator since it gained 1 percent in February 1981.

The data came in the department's report on consumer spending, which fell 0.2 percent in June after removing the effects of higher prices. The report fed investors' growing concerns about the impact of rising prices on consumers, whose spending is the lifeblood of the economy.

AP

People walk down Chicago's Michigan Avenue with bags after shopping on the Magnificent Mile Thursday, July 31, 2008. The country got a pickup in the second quarter but didn't get the energetic rebound in economic growth hoped for from the government's tax rebates.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Motorola snares Qualcomm's Jha for handset unit

NEW YORK (AP)—Motorola Inc. snagged Sanjay Jha, the chief operating officer of Qualcomm Inc. and a star of the wireless industry, to head its handset division as that unit prepares to become an independent company. Jha will also be co-chief executive of the parent company, sharing the responsibility with incumbent Greg Brown until the spinoff next year. Brown will take responsibility for Motorola's other two divisions. Jha, 45, has a doctorate in electronic and electrical engineering. In addition to being Qualcomm's chief operating officer, he was president of the Qualcomm division that made chips for cell phones.

ImClone hints at dim view of Bristol-Myers offer

NEW YORK (AP)—ImClone Systems Inc.'s board of directors said Monday cancer drug partner Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.'s $4.5 billion buyout offer "substantially undervalues" the company, with Chairman Carl Icahn personally against the deal. Despite calling the bid too low, ImClone stopped short of rejecting it and said its board formed a committee to weigh the offer. The board also said it is considering splitting the company into two units to focus on Erbitux and its developing pipeline separately. The New York-based companies are partners on the colon- and head-and-neck-cancer treatment Erbitux. They are also currently developing the drug as a lung cancer therapy.

Big Yahoo shareholder demands review of board vote

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A major Yahoo Inc. shareholder has asked for a review of how its votes were cast in last week's re-election of the Internet company's board, raising questions about whether the opposition to the directors may have been understated. Capital Research Global Investors, which owns a 6.2 percent stake in Yahoo, demanded the review Monday, Capital spokesman Chuck Freadhoff said. Capital World Investors, a related fund that owns nearly 10 percent of Yahoo's stock, didn't make the same request. Capital Research wants independent vote counter Broadridge Financial Solutions to make sure the fund's votes on the Yahoo directors were accurately transmitted, Freadhoff said. He declined to discuss how Capital Research intended to vote or what prompted the request for a review.

Oil prices drop nearly $4 after storm threat eases

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices plunged to a three-month low Monday, briefly tumbling below $120 a barrel in another huge sell-off after Tropical Storm Edouard seemed less likely to disrupt oil and natural gas output in the Gulf of Mexico.

Crude's steep drop—prices fell more than $5 at one point during the day—dragged down other commodities from corn to copper and mimicked the big nosedives of the past three weeks, adding to growing beliefs that the oil bubble is at least temporarily deflating. "What this means is that we're going to see some more relief at the pump. We're probably looking at another 10 cents of downside in retail gas prices," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief analyst at Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J. A gallon of regular gas fell on average about half a penny overnight to $3.881.

Also weighing on oil prices Monday was a report by the Commerce Department that consumer spending after adjusting for inflation fell in June as shoppers dealt with higher prices for gasoline, food and other items. That fed investors' expectations that a U.S. economic slowdown is sharply curbing U.S. demand for fossil fuels.

Obama backs some drilling, tapping oil stockpile

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Barack Obama put forward a broad energy plan Monday designed to end U.S. reliance on imported oil within 10 years and shore up his standing amid a tightening White House race and high-anxiety over gas prices.

Obama's proposal, though, includes two significant reversals of positions he has taken in the past: He had steadfastly fought the idea of limited new offshore drilling and was against tapping the nation's emergency oil stockpile to relieve pump prices that have stubbornly hovered around $4 a gallon.

In a speech in Michigan, the Democratic presidential nominee in waiting also endorsed long-term work on hybrid cars and renewable energy sources.

"Breaking our oil addiction is one of the greatest challenges our generation will ever face," the Illinois Democrat told a supportive audience as he embarked on a week to focus on energy issues. "It will take nothing less than a complete transformation of our economy," he said. Presumed Republican nominee Sen. John McCain, speaking in Pennsylvania, again advocated more oil drilling off the U.S. coast. "Anybody who says that we can achieve energy independence without using and increasing these existing energy resources either doesn't have the experience to understand the challenge that we face or isn't giving the American people some straight talk," he said.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Prosecutors say man to plead guilty in ricin case

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man believed to have poisoned himself with toxic ricin in his Las Vegas motel room will plead guilty to federal charges, prosecutors said Monday. Roger Bergendorff was due in court for an afternoon hearing, but further details on his plea deal were not released. His public defender, Paul Riddle, didn't immediately return a telephone call. Bergendorff, 57, had pleaded not guilty to three charges - possession of a biological toxin and two weapons violations. The unemployed graphic designer has been in federal custody since his arrest April 16. Authorities suspect he poisoned himself in his room just off the Las Vegas Strip.

Tropical Storm Edouard heads for Texas-La. coast

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—A second severe storm in two weeks approached a Texas Gulf Coast vacation hotspot at the height of tourist season. Tropical Storm Edouard was expected to come ashore Tuesday morning anywhere from western Louisiana to Port O'Connor, Texas. Officials in Texas and Louisiana were busy Monday preparing just in case Edouard intensified. It could reach near-hurricane strength as it churns in the warm Gulf of Mexico waters before making landfall. Gov. Rick Perry issued a disaster declaration for 17 Texas counties that could be in Edouard's path. In Louisiana, Gov. Bobby Jindal declared a statewide emergency.

Chicago tornado warning sounded; Wrigley cleared

CHICAGO (AP)—A powerful storm led to tornado warnings in downtown Chicago and the evacuation of fans from the stands at Chicago's Wrigley Field on Monday night. The National Weather Service had not confirmed any tornado touchdowns. But it says trained spotters have reported high-rotation winds in DeKalb and Kane counties in northeastern Illinois. Fans at the Chicago Cubs and Houston Astros game were evacuated from Wrigley Field's stands into the stadium concourse as tornado sirens blared throughout the city. Passengers at O'Hare International Airport were evacuated into the lower levels of the complex's buildings.

Ohio officer acquitted of killing unarmed woman

LIMA, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio jury has acquitted a white police officer in the drug-raid shooting death of an unarmed black woman who was holding a child. The shooting in January shook the city of Lima in northwest Ohio and touched off protests. The all-white jury on Monday found Sgt. Joseph Chavalia (SHUH'-val-ay) not guilty on misdemeanor charges of negligent homicide and negligent assault. Chavalia shot and killed Tarika Wilson and injured the year-old baby she was holding. Prosecutors say he carelessly fired before he knew who he was shooting or whether she had a gun. His says Chavalia heard gunfire and thought his life was in danger.

Ohio inmate says he's too fat for execution

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A death row inmate scheduled for execution says he's too fat to be put to death, claiming executioners would have trouble finding his veins and that his weight could diminish the effectiveness of one of the lethal injection drugs. Lawyers for Richard Cooey argue in a federal lawsuit that Cooey - 5-feet-7 and 267 pounds - had poor veins when he faced execution five years ago and the problem has been worsened by weight gain. The lawsuit, filed Friday in federal court, also says prison officials have had difficulty drawing blood from Cooey for medical procedures. Cooey, 41, is sentenced to die for raping and murdering two young women in 1986. His execution is scheduled for Oct. 14.

7 more Philly workers suspended in teen's death

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Seven city social service administrators were suspended Monday, exactly two years after the emaciated, maggot-infested body of a 14-year-old girl with cerebral palsy was found in the squalid home of her mother, who has been charged with murder. The suspensions came after of a grand jury report said the administrators failed to supervise derelict employees and, in some cases, falsified paperwork to cover up the neglect that led to the death of Danieal Kelly. Just days ago, two other department workers were among nine people charged in the death of the disabled teen, who died of starvation and infection in 2006 while under the Department of Human Services' supervision.

Marines ordered to stay longer in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon has ordered roughly 1,250 Marines serving as trainers for the Afghan security forces to stay on the warfront about a month longer to continue a mission that military leaders say is a top priority, according to a senior military official. In addition, Defense Secretary Robert Gates has authorized the deployment of up to 200 other troops to Afghanistan to support the Marines. That includes eight helicopter crews that could be shifted from Iraq if commanders decide. The senior military official spoke to The Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity because the formal announcement has not yet been made.

The decision to extend the tour of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in Afghanistan comes just a month after defense officials told the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit that it would stay an extra month in Afghanistan.

According to the official, the decision to hold the battalion there longer is part of an effort to capitalize on the gains the Marines have made in the training mission. The extension means that the battalion would return home in late November.

Gates' decision to send the other support forces comes after weeks of discussions by top military leaders who scrambled to find needed troops. He authorized Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, who is temporarily in charge of U.S. Central Command, to shift up to eight helicopter units from Iraq to Afghanistan - four Cobra attack aircraft and four MH-53 heavy lift helicopters.

The remainder of the support forces being deployed are smaller units, including engineers, route clearance troops and explosive ordnance disposal teams. It was not clear Monday whether those support forces also would return home in late November, or if they would stay longer in Afghanistan.

Late last week Gates hinted at the moves, saying the Pentagon was "looking at" sending a couple hundred troops at the most to Afghanistan soon.

The Pentagon announced in January that the Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., was being ordered to Afghanistan, largely because efforts to press other NATO nations to increase their troop levels at the time had failed. The MEU has been fighting Taliban militants in the volatile south.

Officials: Sorority obsession seen in anthrax case

WASHINGTON (AP)—His decades-long obsession with a college sorority may link a former Army biowarfare scientist to four anthrax-laced letters dropped off at a New Jersey mailbox in 2001, authorities said Monday in the latest twist of one of the most bizarre unsolved crimes in FBI history.

U.S. officials said Bruce Ivins' fixation with Kappa Kappa Gamma could explain one of the biggest mysteries in the case: why the anthrax was mailed from Princeton, N.J., 195 miles from the lab it's believed to have been smuggled from.

Still, authorities acknowledge they cannot place Ivins in Princeton the day the anthrax was mailed. And the curious explanation connecting the scientist and a sorority is unlikely to satisfy his friends and former co-workers who question what motive the married father of two might have had for unleashing the attack.

Ivins, 62, killed himself last week as the Justice Department prepared to indict him on capital murder charges for the deaths of five people who were poisoned by the anthrax in the weeks following 9/11. His attorney maintains he would have been proven innocent were he still alive.

The mailbox just off the campus of Princeton University where the letters were mailed sits about 100 yards away from where the college's Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter stores its rush materials, initiation robes and other property. Sorority members do not live there, and the Kappa chapter at Princeton does not provide a house for the women.

Multiple U.S. officials told The Associated Press that Ivins was obsessed with Kappa Kappa Gamma, going back as far as his own college days at the University of Cincinnati when he apparently was rebuffed by a woman in the sorority. The officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

PLANE CRASH AP

Firemen sift through charred remains after a small plane crashed into an occupied vacation rental house in Gearhart, Ore., Monday, Aug. 4, 2008. A small plane crashed into a seaside house in heavy fog early Monday, killing two people aboard and two children in the vacation home it struck, authorities said. A third child was unaccounted for after the crash, which apparently occurred soon after the plane took off from nearby Seaside in northwest Oregon.

Martian soil may have chemically reactive salt

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NASA's Phoenix spacecraft has detected the presence of a chemically reactive salt in the Martian soil, a finding that if confirmed could make it less friendly to potential life than once believed.

Scientists previously reported that the soil near Mars' north pole was similar to backyard gardens on Earth where plants such as asparagus, green beans and turnips could grow. But preliminary results from a second lab test found perchlorate, a highly oxidizing salt, that would create a harsh environment.

The first test "suggested Earth-like soil. Further analysis has revealed un-Earthlike aspects of the soil chemistry," chief scientist Peter Smith of the University of Arizona in Tucson said in a statement Monday.

On Earth, perchlorate is a natural and manmade contaminant sometimes found in soil and groundwater. It is the main ingredient in solid rocket fuel and can be found in fireworks, pyrotechnics and other explosives.

It's unclear how perchlorate forms on Mars or how much there is of it. NASA is investigating whether the substance could have gotten there by contamination before launch. Phoenix used another fuel, hydrazine, to power its thrusters and land on the red planet on May 25.

Missouri sees second tiger attack in 2 days

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Three tigers attacked a worker at an exotic animal park in southwestern Missouri on Monday—the state's second tiger attack in as many days.

Stone County Sheriff Richard Hill said the tigers attacked a 16-year-old worker at Predator World in Branson West after he entered their cage to photograph the tigers for customers.

Employees managed to pull the teen from the cage before emergency responders arrived. He was airlifted to a Springfield hospital and was in critical condition, with injuries including punctures to his neck. His name was not released.

The tigers were "locked down" after the attack, Hill said. A woman who answered the phone at Predator World said she could only confirm that a staff member had been seriously injured.

The attack came a day after a tiger mauled a volunteer at the Wesa-A-Geh-Ya animal farm in Warrenton.

Asia

Attack kills 16 police days before the Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—In an audacious and deadly attack just days ahead of the Beijing Olympics, two men from a mainly Muslim ethnic group rammed a truck and hurled explosives at jogging policemen in China's restive far west Monday, killing 16.

The attack in a city near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border brought an immediate response from China's Olympic organizers, who pronounced security precautions ready to ensure safety in Beijing and other Olympic venues when the games open Friday.

Yet the timing so close to opening day heightened the attack's shock value and bore the hallmarks of local Muslim militants, said Li Wei, a counterterrorism expert affiliated with the government.

It also came as athletes, Olympic dignitaries and journalists poured into Beijing for an Olympics that some Chinese want to leverage to get the government to address festering grievances. Migrant workers cheated on pay for construction, homeowners angry about pollution and other disgruntled residents believe the government would help them rather than see the Olympics disrupted.

On Monday, about 20 people evicted from their homes for urban renewal projects staged a small demonstration a few blocks from Tiananmen Square only to be surrounded by police.

"We don't oppose the Olympics. But it's wrong for them to demolish our house. It's wrong," said Liu Fumei, who scuffled with women from the government-backed neighborhood committee who pulled Liu and the other protesters away.

The risk for the communist government is that the ferment could disrupt an Olympics it spent more than $40 billion to make a perfect showcase for China. "Pursuing peace, progress, coexistence in harmony and harmonious development" was how Chinese President Hu Jintao described the Chinese people's Olympic hopes to foreign media last week.

Huge new US *embassy reflects growing ties between* US, China

BEIJING (AP)—A massive new U.S. Embassy, the second-largest in the world after the heavily fortified compound in Baghdad, formally opens in the Chinese capital this week, a testament to the depth and breadth of the ties binding the trading partners and sometimes rivals.

President Bush, who will be attending the Beijing Olympics opening ceremonies Friday, is to preside over the ribbon-cutting at the $434 million, 500,000-square-foot compound that same day. Embassy personnel will not move in until after the Olympics in case there are glitches in communications or other systems.

The eight-story main building, wrapped in an outer envelope of freestanding transparent and opaque glass, was designed with traditional Chinese elements in mind. Narrow walkways lined with bamboo link diplomatic "neighborhoods."

"The scale and size of this embassy - set on 10 acres in a new diplomatic zone - symbolizes the future of the relationship as it expands in scope and breadth," said Victor Cha, director of Asian studies at Georgetown University and author of a forthcoming book, "Beyond the Final Score: The Politics of Sport in Asia."

AP

Park goers relax in the shade at Ritan Park, one of three Beijing parks where demonstrators could legally stage protests during the 2008 Beijing Olympics in Beijing, China, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

Dutch survivor of K2 avalanche describes ordeal

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Blinded by the glare off the snow and ice, attempting a perilous descent down K2 to save his life, the Dutch mountaineer came upon three Korean climbers.

One sat dazed in the snow. Another held a rope. The third was suspended at the other end, hanging upside down.

"They were trying to survive," the Dutch mountaineer, Wilco van Rooijen, recalled Monday, "but I had also to survive because I was getting snow blind." He said he offered help but they declined, believing help was already on the way.

Speaking by phone with The Associated Press from a military hospital where he was being treated for frostbitten toes, van Rooijen provided a gripping account of his ordeal on K2 before he and another Dutch climber were plucked to safety Monday.

At least 11 people were presumed dead after an avalanche on K2, the world's second-highest mountain. An Italian who was also stranded made his way down the slope with a rescue team after telling a colleague, "I am surely not going to give up now."

The Ministry of Tourism said the 11 believed dead in one of mountaineering's worst disasters included three South Koreans, two Nepalis, two Pakistanis and mountaineers from France, Ireland, Serbia and Norway. It was not clear whether the three Koreans were the same described by van Rooijen.

K2, which straddles Pakistan and China in the Karakoram range, is regarded by mountaineers as far more challenging than Mount Everest, the world's highest peak. K2's knife-edged ridges and icy slopes are steeper and prone to both avalanches and sudden and severe storms.

AP

Dutch climber Wilco Van Rooijen is seen in a bed of a military hospital where is was taken after being rescued from K-2's base camp, in Skardu, Pakistan, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

Philippine court blocks autonomy deal for Muslims

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court, acting on a petition by Christian politicians, on Monday blocked the signing of a key accord granting an expanded southern homeland to minority Muslims as part of a deal to end decades of bloody Islamic rebellion.

The Philippine government and the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front were to sign the agreement Tuesday in Malaysia, which has been brokering the negotiations. The accord, which aims to expand an existing autonomous region to add 712 more villages, sparked protests from Christian residents.

Court spokesman Midas Marquez said the Supreme Court issued a temporary stay after Christian politicians from the southern province of North Cotabato objected to the accord because the government failed to publicly disclose its contents. Christian politicians from the southern city of Zamboanga filed a similar petition in court Monday.

"The court would like to find out the real issues before some irreversible acts can be done," Marquez said.

The rebel group - with an estimated 11,000 armed fighters - has been battling for self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's volatile south for decades.

Christian politicians protesting the accord have warned that an enlarged Muslim homeland could spark renewed sectarian violence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bush to face protesters during South Korea visit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Bush held off on visiting Seoul earlier this year when protesters held nightly candlelight vigils and clashed with riot police in anger over government plans to resume imports of American beef. The protests faded and meat shipments began. But Bush's arrival Tuesday is shaping up as a new flashpoint as anti-government demonstrators say they will raise their cries again, facing off against pro-U.S. groups planning a show of support for the country's longtime ally. South Koreans remain generally positive in public opinion surveys about the United States, which helped repel North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean war and still deploys some 28,500 troops on the Korean peninsula to deter an attack.

Indian court rejects plea to abort sick fetus

MUMBAI, India (AP)—An Indian court on Monday rejected a woman's petition to abort her 25-week-old fetus with a congenital heart problem, saying the law does not permit such late-term abortions. Last month, Niketa Mehta, 31, her husband, Haresh, and their gynecologist, Dr. Nikhil Dattar, petitioned the court to allow an abortion. Their lawyer, Amit Karkhanis, says the couple can't afford to pay for the frequent change of pacemaker that the fetus' condition would require. But the Bombay High Court said that it was up to Parliament and not the court to change the provisions of Indian law, which specifies that a pregnancy cannot be terminated after 20 weeks unless the mother faces a medical risk.

Police kill 2 Hindu protesters in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police in Indian Kashmir opened fire Monday at hundreds of stone-throwing Hindu protesters angry over a government decision to not transfer land to a Hindu shrine, killing two people, an official said. Both protesters were shot to death in the clash in Jammu city, said Ramesh Kumar, a police officer. Sixteen others were wounded, he said. In June, the government in Jammu-Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, decided to award 99 acres of land to the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, a trust that maintains the Amarnath shrine, a revered Hindu site.

World

Roadside bomb kills 2 US soldiers in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—A roadside bomb killed two U.S. soldiers in a predominantly Shiite area in Baghdad on Monday, the first deadly attack against American troops in the capital in nearly a month.

At least nine Iraqis also were killed in explosions elsewhere in the Baghdad area, Iraqi officials said, in a grim reminder of the dangers that continue to face security forces and civilians despite significant security gains over the past year.

The U.S. military said another American soldier was wounded when the blast struck a U.S. patrol at about 9:30 a.m. in eastern Baghdad. The area was the site of fierce clashes and frequent roadside bombings blamed on Shiite militiamen before a cease-fire by anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The soldiers were the first to be killed in Baghdad since July 8, when a roadside bomb killed Spc. William McMillan III, a 22-year-old Army medic from Lexington, Ky., and wounded five other soldiers in the western neighborhood of Amariyah, a Sunni area.

Iraqi politicians, meanwhile, remained in bitter debate over a power-sharing formula for the disputed, oil-rich city of Kirkuk that has blocked passage of a law providing for provincial elections. The U.S. hopes the nationwide local vote will stem remaining support for violence by more fairly distributing power among Iraq's rival ethnic and religious communities.

AP

British army troops provide some security during a ceremony to open a new Iraqi border guards command headquarters in Basra, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

Talks continued late into the night with the lawmakers facing intense pressure from U.S. and U.N. officials to reach agreement. Parliamentary officials scheduled another legislative session for Tuesday morning. The Kurds object to an article in the law that would equally distribute the council seats among Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen and dilute their powers in Tamim province, which lies just south of their own semiautonomous region in Iraq's north.

Tensions rose last week after a suicide bombing killed more than 20 people in Kirkuk and the Kurdish-dominated Tamim council called for the area to be annexed into the self-ruled Kurdish region. The council decision was nonbinding but provoked Turkomen and Arabs.

The main sticking point appeared to be Kurdish demands to include a reference to a constitutionally mandated referendum on Kirkuk's status. The referendum was supposed to have been held by the end of 2007 but was delayed because of fierce resistance among Arabs and Turkomen.

Massoud Barzani, president of the Kurdish region, said his bloc had agreed to a U.N. compromise proposal that would delay the Tamim vote while allowing elections to go ahead in Iraq's 17 other provinces.

Gaza clansmen exiled as Hamas grabs Fatah bastion

AP

A Palestinian, member of the Fatah-allied Hilles clan in Gaza, walks from an Israeli to a Palestinian bus at the army checkpoint near the town of Jericho in the West Bank, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas claimed Monday to have "uprooted" the last major pocket of armed resistance to its 14-month rule in the Gaza Strip, saying it seized mortars, grenade launchers and other weapons from a once powerful clan allied with the rival Fatah movement.

Dozens of members of the Hilles clan were being held by the Islamic militants of Hamas, while dozens more who fled to Israel to avoid capture during weekend fighting were given asylum Monday in the Fatah-ruled West Bank.

In a small sign of defiance, Hilles families sent children outdoors wrapped in bright yellow Fatah flags, saying they hoped the sight would annoy Hamas fighters patrolling the neighborhood on foot and in pickup trucks.

Saturday's attack on the Hilles stronghold in Gaza City's Shijaiyeh neighborhood, which killed 11 people and wounded dozens, marked a fresh setback for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the head of Fatah.

Turkey investigates hospital deaths of 27 babies

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's Health Ministry launched an investigation Monday into the deaths of more than two dozen newborn babies at a hospital in Ankara.

The Zekai Tahir Burak hospital has acknowledged that 27 babies died there in the past two weeks, but said most had died from complications related to premature delivery.

Most of the 26,000 babies born each year or admitted to Zekai Tahir Burak are premature, as the hospital handles high-risk births. The hospital could not immediately say how many babies were delivered in the two week period involving the 27 deaths.

Turkey's infant mortality rate is relatively high, however, with 23.6 in 1,000 newborns dying in 2005, compared with 3.8 in 1,000 in neighboring Greece, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

But a health workers union said 27 recent deaths in two weeks was too high and blamed poor sanitary conditions and negligence.

Health Minister Recep Akdag ordered an inquiry, and the ministry set up a team of investigators to look into practices at the hospital, which has one of the busiest maternity wards in the capital. The hospital says it has capacity for 122 newborns at a time, but often has up to 180.

The ministry said the results of the investigation would be made public.

"The necessary measures will be taken if anyone is found to be at fault," it said in a statement.

Over the weekend, Dr. Ugur Dilmen, who heads the hospital's newborn unit, said the babies' deaths were the result of birth defects, heart failure, hernia, hypertension and stillbirth.

The hospital said tests had ruled out infection as a possible cause.

"None of the deaths were caused by a hospital infection," chief physician Leyla Mollamahmutoglu said.

The Health and Social Services Workers union, however, questioned the hospital's sanitary conditions. Union chief Kemal Yilmaz said Monday that visitors entered the newborn unit with plastic booties over shoes, but no masks.

Yilmaz also suggested the hospital was understaffed and overcrowded, with up to three newborns placed in one incubator.

South Africa's Zuma bids to have corruption, fraud charges dropped

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (AP)—The man expected to become South Africa's next president pressed Monday for the dismissal of corruption and fraud charges against him in a case testing the strength of the country's democracy and political stability.

Inside the Pietermaritzburg High Court, lawyers argued the legal technicalities of dropping the charges against Jacob Zuma. Outside, after the hearing, a large crowd of Zuma supporters went wild as the so-called People's President appeared on a trailer and belted out an anti-apartheid song which has become his personal anthem: "Bring Me My Machine Gun."

"We are here in our thousands to say 'hands off our president, hands off,'" declared Zwelinzima Vavi, a trade union leader and one of Zuma's most outspoken loyalists.

Zuma, 66, ousted President Thabo Mbeki as head of the ruling African National Congress in December and is likely to succeed Mbeki as South African president next year. The corruption case is the last remaining obstacle.

The former apartheid-era guerrilla leader fell out with Mbeki in 2005, when Mbeki fired him as the country's deputy president after Zuma's financial adviser was sentenced to 15 years in jail for trying to elicit bribes from a French company.

AP

ANC President Jacob Zuma walks inside the court in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

Charges were thrown out in 2006 on a technicality. But within days of Zuma's ANC victory in December, the National Prosecuting Authority said it had new evidence and filed racketeering, corruption, money laundering and fraud charges.

Prosecutors say Zuma accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes from Thint, formerly Thomson CSF, to use his influence to stop investigations into government arms deal contracts.

But Zuma supporters say he is the victim of a political conspiracy.

"We think the charges should be dropped," ANC spokesman Jessie Duarte told reporters. "We think it is persecution, not prosecution."

Zuma's lawyer argued Monday that the case should be thrown out because prosecutors failed to consult him in 2005 after they reversed a 2003 decision not to charge him. The prosecution dismissed this as "beside the point."

If Judge Chris Nicholson decides to send the case further, Zuma could face trial later this year - although it is doubtful that any process would be completed before next year's elections.

Jury begins deliberations at first Gitmo trial

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—America's first war crimes trial since World War II went to the jury Monday as a panel of six U.S. military officers began deliberating whether to send Osama bin Laden's former driver away for life.

The jurors, who were hand-picked by the Pentagon, were reviewing evidence from a two-week trial at the Guantanamo Bay Navy base that has become the first full test of the Bush administration's system for prosecuting alleged terrorists.

They met behind closed doors for about 45 minutes before recessing until Tuesday morning.

Salim Hamdan, a Yemeni held here since May 2002, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted of conspiracy and supporting terrorism.

In closing arguments, prosecutors said Hamdan's service to the al-Qaida chief over five years in Afghanistan helped his boss execute terrorist plots including the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington.

Campus Life

Kids and homework

Ways to enhance children's study time to keep them motivated and productive

By TERRI SAPIENZA
[C] 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

When it comes to homework, Mary Beth McLoughlin leaves nothing to chance.

At about 5 p.m. every day, the time McLoughlin has established, her older children Aidan, 8, and Kate, 7, start their daily assignments. They work at the kitchen table in their Gaithersburg, Md., home where she can monitor and help them as she prepares dinner. A plastic container full of school supplies is kept close at hand.

"My kids are very good about sitting down and [then] saying they need something we may not have," says McLoughlin, a former elementary school teacher who also plays the part at home as needed. "So I fill [the container] with everything they could possibly think of, so there's no excuse for them to get up. I ask them what they need, they tell me, and I say, 'SIT DOWN. I got it.'"

Like many parents, McLoughlin is all too familiar with the hassle of homework. There are few things less fun than coaxing kids to concentrate on class work when they would rather be doing something, anything, else.

For McLoughlin, maintaining quiet is key. "I try and keep it as peaceful as possible, so they can get it done in the shortest amount of time."

But for moms and dads who don't have a background in teaching, coming up with strategies to make homework less stressful is a tough assignment. And keeping kids motivated, productive and organized only gets more difficult as their time spent studying increases as they move from grade to grade. Parents can expect a child to have 10 minutes of homework per grade per night, according to some educators: A second-grade student should work about 20 minutes a night, a third-grader, 30 minutes, and on and on through 12th grade, when a high school senior can average two hours daily.

One way to encourage kids: Establish a regular system. Having children do homework in "the same place, the same time with the same routine is critical," says Kenna Armstrong, head of the Montessori division of the Barrie School in Silver Spring, Md., and mother of three. "Children thrive on routine."

Then set up a dedicated work space. Just as a bed promotes sleeping, a place designed for homework will promote studying. Try stocking the space with a few cool tools, too, such as colorful pencils, fun folders or a playful computer mouse. The novelty might wear off after time, but sitting down to a cheerful space will set the tone.

Also, remember that learning styles differ for every person.

"Children do have preferences and do learn better in different types of environments," says Harris Cooper, a leading homework expert and professor of psychology at Duke University. His own son did homework at a desk immediately following school, but his daughter spread her books out in front of the television and completed her work between phone and TV breaks. Both did very well in school. As a result, they were allowed to choose when and where they did their homework as long as they kept their grades up.

Those techniques may not work for every student, says Cooper. "If a child is struggling, there's likely a need for more structure in terms of both time and place."

When carving out a daily homework spot, "keep kids as connected to the family as they need to be or [as] separated as they need to be," says Julie Morgenstern, a professional organizer and author of "Organizing From the Inside Out." "The ideal place depends on household and child."

Once that place is established, keep it comfortable and organized.

Basic study supplies include a computer [if needed], a comfortable [but not nap-inducing] chair that's scaled to fit the person who will be using it, a work surface large enough to spread out books and other materials, adequate lighting, a parent to provide help when needed and all other supplies nearby.

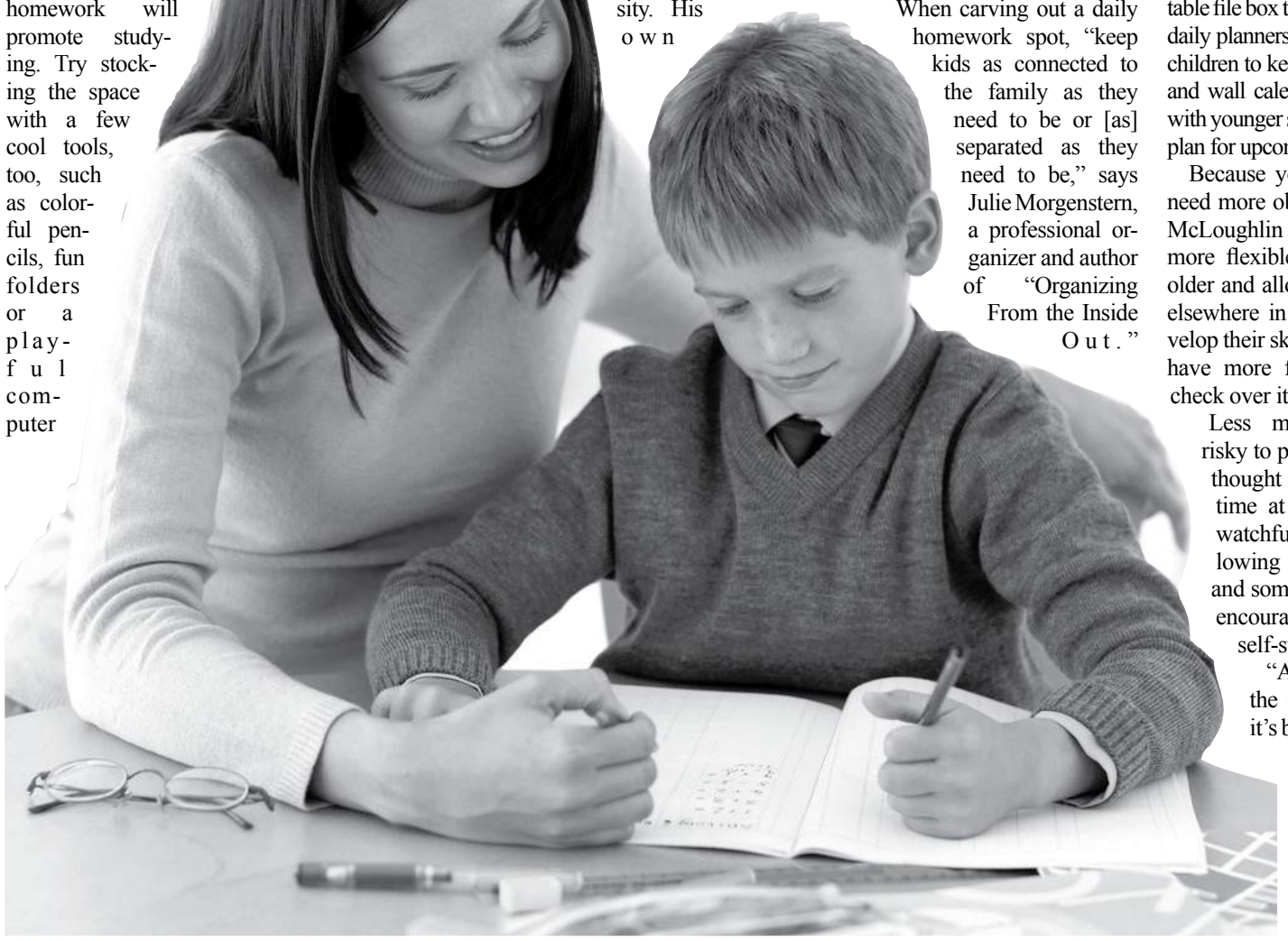
Other, more organizational items to consider as a child gets older include a filing system, a daily planner and a wall calendar. "Homework, permission slips and class handouts should be stored in a permanent filing system that's kept where the homework is done," says Morgenstern. "Each child should have their own separate files. It doesn't need to be a cabinet, it could be a drawer or a portable file box that sits on a shelf." Portable daily planners should be carried by older children to keep track of busy schedules, and wall calendars are useful in homes with younger students so parents can help plan for upcoming projects.

Because younger children typically need more observation and assistance, McLoughlin says she will probably be more flexible when her children get older and allow them to do their work elsewhere in the house. "As they develop their skills more, I might let them have more freedom, but I will still check over it when they're done."

Less monitoring might sound risky to parents who shudder at the thought of their children spending time at their computers beyond watchful eyes. But experts say allowing children to have choices and some degree of independence encourages responsibility and self-sufficiency.

"As time goes on, as long as the child is doing well, then it's best for the parents to withdraw from the process," says Cooper. If parents are over-involved, he says, they run the risk of teaching their children: If the going gets tough, Mom gets going.

"That's not the lesson we want kids to learn."



For moms and dads who don't have a background in teaching, coming up with strategies to make homework less stressful is a tough assignment. AP

The school bus doesn't stop here anymore

By SEEMA MEHTA
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Thousands more California students will have to find their own way to school this autumn, as districts slash bus routes to cope with budget shortfalls and high fuel costs.

Critics worry that the cuts will increase traffic around schools, shift costs to parents struggling with rising gas prices and prompt more absenteeism, hurting students' academic achievement. But paramount is the fear that the reductions will endanger students as more walk or drive to school.

"All the parents, we've been scrambling to try to work out carpools," said Wayne Tate, whose second-grader's bus to Castille Elementary, two miles from their Orange County home was eliminated. "For somebody that young, that's a pretty long way to walk or ride a bike. All you need is one kid getting hit to realize that maybe the (idea) wasn't worth it."

Districts say they have no choice.

"It's a horribly difficult decision," said Larry Brown, assistant superintendent of business services at Moorpark Unified School District in Ventura County, which is eliminating bus rides for its 2,400 high school students. "It's a decision no one wants to make."

Unlike most other states, California does not require districts to provide home-to-school transportation except in limited circumstances. Fewer than 15 percent of the state's 6.3 million students ride school buses, according to a 2007 report by the state auditor's office. Los Angeles Unified is among districts that do not offer the service for most students.

A year's worth of bus service costs an average of nearly $1,400 per student in urban districts and more than $900 per rural pupil, according to the state auditor's report. The state provides less than half of the $1.1 billion that districts spend annually on transportation. To make up the rest, districts dip into their general fund, the same pot of money that pays for smaller class sizes, teacher salaries and textbooks. Many districts also require parents to buy bus passes that can cost hundreds of dollars annually per child.

But this year, in districts across the state, this method no longer works. State education leaders report that more districts are reducing or eliminating bus service, although no agency has a complete tally.

In Poway Unified School District near San Diego, where parents pay $399 for an annual bus pass, several hazardous conditions that once qualified students for bus service -- among them living near a busy intersection or lacking a safe path or sidewalk to school—no longer are considered. In addition, only routes that draw at least 50 paying riders will operate. The change leaves as many as 1,600 students of all ages without rides.

"It's gotten to the point where we could not continue to do what we have historically done," said Tim Purvis, the district's director of transportation, who budgeted $700,000 for fuel last school year and ended up spending $1.1 million. "I have 26 years of experience in this business, and I've never seen such an erratic year for fuel increases."

Japan seeks to double foreign students

By SHINO YUASA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Japan aims to more than double the number of foreign university students in the country by simplifying immigration procedures and hiring more English-speaking professors, an official said Tuesday.

The government hopes to boost the number of foreign students from 120,000 to 300,000 by 2020, as Japan lags far behind the United States and major European countries.

Some 580,000 international students study in the U.S., with 356,000 students in the United Kingdom, 265,000 in France and 248,000 in Germany, according to the Japanese education ministry.

"The plan is part of our globalization efforts at Japanese universities," said Ryuichi Oda, an education ministry official. "We would like to provide as much governmental support as we can."

The government plans to simplify immigration procedures and set up workshops on study opportunities at Japanese embassies abroad, Oda said. While calling on universities to hire more English-speaking teachers, Oda said, the government and schools will also increase the number of Japanese-language classes for foreign students.

"The biggest obstacle for foreign students to study in Japan is the language, " he said.

The government and universities also plan to help foreign students find jobs in Japan after graduation.

Japan's society is rapidly aging, and the demographic shift from a declining birthrate and high life expectancies is expected to lead to acute labor shortages. A government report last week warned Japan's economy could slow to less than an annual 1 percent growth rate in the 2020s because of the shrinking labor force.

Life & Style

Arnold is cautious about a new Terminator

By Geoff Boucher
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—"The Terminator" will be back next summer, but the original killer robot, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, is a bit puzzled by this new model, at least so far.

"I still don't know how it will play out with this one," said the star-turned-politician, who said he was given a private screening of early footage from "Terminator Salvation" by producers of the franchise reboot. "They showed me some footage, but I don't have a feel for the movie. I didn't see enough. I wasn't sure who the Terminator was. I don't know if there is one or if he's the star or the hero. These are the things that determine the success and how the strong the movie will be."

This will be the fourth of the "Terminator" films but the first without the Austrian-born muscleman who became an international film archetype in the role of an assassination machine with cool sunglasses and a deadpan delivery. "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" in 2003 was Schwarzenegger's last starring role before he gave up Hollywood for Sacramento.

Schwarzenegger loves to talk Hollywood, and Friday afternoon he chatted about his favorite recent movies—he absolutely loved "Wanted," for instance, and he says Will Ferrell movies are so funny that he's getting "a six-pack" of abs from all the laughing—and he addressed the topic of a new "Terminator" for the first time in any depth.

AP

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sets down the pen after signing an executive order eliminating 22,000 part-time and temporary positions and ordered that 200,000 state workers receive the federal minimum wage during a news conference at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., on Thursday, July 31, 2008. At the right is Director of California Department of Personnel Administration David Gilb.

Schwarzenegger has been playing a different sort of "Terminator" these days—last week he ordered the layoffs of 10,000 state employees. He has said that move, along with sweeping salary reductions for state workers, will take pressure off the California coffers during the continuing budget impasse in the Legislature.

"Terminator Salvation" is being filmed in New Mexico and stars Christian Bale, who wears the mask of Batman in this summer's history-making hit, "The Dark Knight." Bale won't be a Terminator robot—just the opposite, he plays a grown-up John Connor, the leader of the ragged human resistance against machine-men oppressors of the future.

"Salvation," directed by the filmmaker McG, will be a prequel to "The Terminator," the landmark 1984 film directed by James Cameron. In 1991, Cameron and Schwarzenegger teamed again for "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," which grossed more than $200 million in U.S. theaters.

"Salvation" is trying to pay homage to that history even as it charts its own course. McG ("Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle,") sought Cameron's blessing for "Salvation," which is far bleaker, unsettling and savage than the third film in the series, directed by Jonathan Mostow. "Salvation" producers also arranged for the governor to see an early "sizzle reel," a montage of scenes of the sort shown at Comic-Con International last month, where "Salvation" was popular with fans.

Schwarzenegger was polite but cautious when he was asked what he thought of the reel. "I've seen very little footage, so I don't really have a feel for it. I hope they do well, and I hope it is a huge hit. I do hope it creates a spectacle on the screen. That is what James Cameron created."

The politician, who turned 61 last week, remains an ardent booster of Hollywood. Despite the crises around him in the state capital, he gushed about what a wonderful season it has been for popcorn entertainment. "It shows how important Hollywood is to our state economy and how much people love movies," he said.

Will Schwarzenegger be able to watch any new "Terminator" film and not feel a pang of loss?

"No, the same thing happened with bodybuilding," he said. "Seven times I won the Mr. Olympia title, a record, no one had done that. Then someone else (South Carolina native Lee Haney) won it eight times. Do I sit and say, `Darn it, my record is gone' or `Darn, I'm not up there on stage'? No, because I've moved into other phases of my life. I moved on from bodybuilding into entertainment. Then I moved on from entertainment into a political life. Now this is the most exciting experience of my life. When this movie comes out, I won't be sitting there saying, `Why can't I do that?' I hope it makes a lot of money and is very successful."

Solzhenitsyn death leaves complex legacy in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Vladimir Putin could have seemed like natural enemies - a writer plagued by the secret police and a president who started his career with the KGB.

But by the time of the Nobel Prize-winning Solzhenitsyn's death at age 89 on Sunday he had warmed to Putin's vision of Russia. His death left a complex legacy - vividly intense books standing up for human dignity and free thought, but support for a man widely criticized as pushing Russia back into repressive ways.

As a young author, Solzhenitsyn earned worldwide acclaim as an unbending dissident whose books exposed dictator Josef Stalin's network of slave labor camps and undermined the Soviet system.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who closed the last of the Soviet political prisons in the 1980s, praised Solzhenitsyn as "one of the first who spoke aloud about the inhuman Stalinist regime and about the people who experienced it but were not broken."

But Putin, a veteran of the KGB that waged a campaign of harassment against Solzhenitsyn in the 1960s and '70s who is now prime minister after eight years as president, also laid claim to the writer's memory.

Putin called Solzhenitsyn "our compatriot and contemporary," saying the "entire thorny path of his life will remain for us an example of genuine devotion and selfless serving to the people, fatherland and the ideals of freedom, justice and humanism."

Solzhenitsyn's nonfiction trilogy, "The Gulag Archipelago," published in the 1970s, shocked the Soviet elite, helped destroy lingering support for the Soviet experiment in the West and inspired a generation of dissidents in the Soviet Union.

While he was relentless in exposing the tyranny of the Stalinist era, he became a fierce critic of the West and embraced Putin-era efforts to weaken or abolish democratic institutions in the early 21st century.

Viktor Pavlov, a 69-year-old writer who worked amid Soviet labor camps in the Arctic city of Norilsk in the 1950s, said he worried that Solzhenitsyn's passing could stifle what little dissent remains in Russia.

"While Solzhenitsyn accepted Putinism, the writer always remained the man who embodied openness, criticism of the powers-that-be, the powers that Putin all his life served," Pavlov said in Paris, where he now lives after fleeing what he said was pressure from Russian authorities over his writings in 2006.

AP

In this Thursday, Dec. 10, 1998 file photo, writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, left, speaks at the Swedish Embassy where Solzhenitsyn and other Nobel laureates are feted in Moscow.

Nina L. Khrushcheva called Solzhenitsyn an ally of her great-grandfather, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, in the effort to dismantle the cruel legacy of the his predecessor - dictator Josef Stalin.

She called the Gulag trilogy "this incredible monument to the horrors of Stalinism." But she, too, was critical of his embrace of Putin, saying Solzhenitsyn's Russian nationalism was even stronger than his anti-Stalinism.

One of Solzhenitsyn's sons, Stepan, defended his father's view, saying Russia under Putin has changed in ways that pleased his father. "Undoubtedly, Russia has turned some kind of corner," he said. "Look around you. This is not a country where people cower in fear."

Born Dec. 11, 1918, Solzhenitsyn served as a front-line artillery captain in World War II, then in the war's closing weeks was arrested for calling Stalin "the man with the mustache" in a letter to a friend.

He was sentenced to eight years in labor camps. After that, he served three years of exile in Kazakhstan. It was during this period that he began to write, and continued to do so while working as a mathematics teacher.

His first book, "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch," was published in 1962 by Khrushchev's order.

The book created a sensation in a country where unpleasant truths were spoken in whispers, if at all. Abroad, "One Day" was lauded not only for its bravery, but for its spare, unpretentious language.

After Khrushchev was ousted in 1964, Solzhenitsyn faced KGB harassment, publication of his works was blocked and he was expelled from the Soviet Writers Union. But he was undeterred.

In the novel "Cancer Ward," which appeared in 1967, cancer became a metaphor for the fatal sickness of the Soviet system - a system, he wrote, that forced Soviet citizens to choose one of three roles: tyrant, traitor, prisoner.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970, but Soviet authorities barred him from traveling to Stockholm, Sweden, to attend the ceremony. Pressure from the government only increased in 1973 when the first book in the "Gulag" trilogy appeared in Paris.

The following year, Solzhenitsyn was arrested on treason charges and expelled the next day to West Germany in handcuffs. His expulsion inspired worldwide condemnation of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Solzhenitsyn eventually moved to America, settling in the tiny town of Cavendish, Vt., with his wife and sons, for the next 18 years. There he worked on what he considered his life's work, a multi-volume saga of Russian history titled "The Red Wheel."

Gorbachev restored Solzhenitsyn's citizenship in 1990 and the treason charge was dropped in 1991. He returned home with uncharacteristic fanfare in 1994.

Besides his wife, Natalya, Solzhenitsyn is survived by his three sons, including Stepan, Ignat and Yermolai.

Official says Olsen seeks immunity in Ledger probe

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal investigators want to question Mary-Kate Olsen about how Heath Ledger got two powerful painkillers that contributed to his accidental overdose death, but she's refusing to talk without immunity, a law enforcement official said Monday.

Olsen's lawyer has twice refused requests for her to speak with investigators, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing. The lawyer, Michael C. Miller, said the "Full House" actress has nothing to do with the drugs, and has already told the government everything she knows.

"We have provided the government with relevant information including facts in the chronology of events surrounding Mr. Ledger's death," Miller said in a statement Monday, "and the fact that Ms. Olsen does not know the source of the drugs Mr. Ledger consumed."

The official confirmed a report that Olsen wants a promise of immunity from prosecution before speaking to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Olsen was a close friend of Ledger's, and was the first person called by a masseuse who found the 28-year-old "Dark Knight" actor's lifeless body in his Manhattan apartment.

Authorities have obtained a subpoena that could force Olsen to appear before a grand jury if negotiations with her lawyer fail, the official said. Other potential witnesses all have answered questions voluntarily, including doctors, Ledger's ex-girlfriend Michelle Williams and anyone who was in his apartment around the time of his death, the official added.

DEA investigators suspect the painkillers oxycodone and hydrocodone found in Ledger's system were obtained with phony prescriptions or other illegal means, the official said. Oxycodone is sold as OxyContin; and hydrocodone as Vicodin.

The other drugs, including anti-anxiety medication and sleeping pills, were prescribed legally by doctors in California and Texas, the official said.

The medical examiner's office wouldn't say what concentrations of each drug was found, but made clear he was killed by the combination - not an excess of any one drug in particular. It's common for the DEA to investigate an overdose death with so many different drugs involved, spokesman Garrison Courtney said last month.

The DEA's New York office declined comment on the stalemate with Olsen, which was first reported Monday by the New York Post. There was no immediate response to a message left with a spokeswoman for Olsen.

The masseuse discovered Ledger's body on Jan. 22. Police say she spent nine minutes making three calls to Olsen before dialing 911 for help, then called the actress a fourth time after paramedics arrived. At some point during the flurry of frantic calls, Olsen, who was in California, summoned her personal security guards to the apartment to help, police said.

Shortly after the Australian-born actor's death, Olsen issued a statement that read: "Heath was a friend. His death is a tragic loss."

AP

In this Nov. 15, 2007 file photo, actress Mary Kate Olsen arrives at the 7th on Sale dinner gala to benefit the fight against HIV and AIDS at the 69th Regiment Armory in New York.

Morgan Freeman seriously injured in car crash

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Oscar-winning actor Morgan Freeman was hospitalized in serious condition Monday after the car he was driving left a rural road in the Mississippi Delta and flipped several times.

Freeman, 71, was airlifted to the Regional Medical Center in Memphis, Tenn., about 90 miles north of the accident in rural Tallahatchie County.

The actor "has a broken arm, broken elbow and minor shoulder damage, but is in good spirits," according to a statement from Donna Lee, Freeman's publicist. A hospital spokeswoman said Freeman was in serious condition but would not discuss his injuries.

"He is having a little bit of surgery this afternoon or tomorrow to help correct the damage," Lee's statement said. "He says he'll be OK and is looking forward to a full recovery."

Freeman, who won an Oscar for his role in "Million Dollar Baby," is among the stars in "The Dark Knight," now in theaters. His screen credits also include "Driving Miss Daisy."

Freeman and a companion were traveling on a dark, two-lane highway that cuts through the expansive farmlands of the Mississippi Delta when the car ran off the side of the road shortly before midnight Sunday, authorities said. The vehicle flipped several times but landed upright in a ditch alongside Mississippi Highway 32, about 5 miles west of Charleston, not far from where Freeman owns a home with his wife.

Mississippi Highway Patrol spokesman Sgt. Ben Williams said rescuers had to use the jaws of life to remove Freeman from the car.

"He was lucid, conscious. He was talking, joking with some of the rescue workers at one point," said Clay McFerrin, editor of Sun Sentinel in Charleston, who arrived at the scene soon after the accident happened.

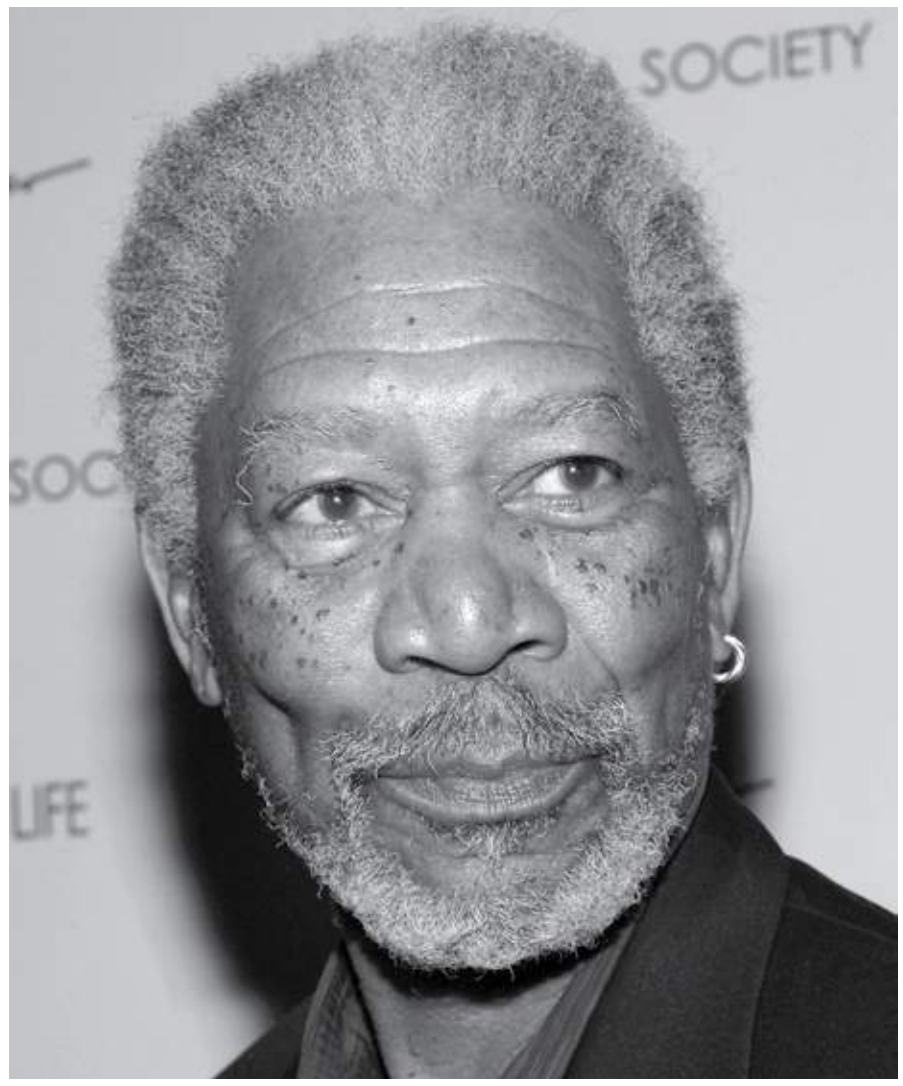
McFerrin said it appeared Freeman's car was airborne when it left the highway.

Bystanders converged on the accident scene trying to get a glimpse of the actor, McFerrin said.

When one person tried to snap a photo with a cell phone camera, Freeman joked, "no freebies, no freebies," McFerrin said.

Williams said Freeman was driving a 1997 Nissan Maxima that belonged to Demaris Meyer of Memphis.

"There's no indication that either alcohol or drugs were involved," Williams said. He said both Freeman and Meyer were wearing seat belts. The woman's condition was not immediately available.



AP

In this March 5, 2008 file photo, actor Morgan Freeman attends a Cinema Society screening of "Married Life" in New York.

Freeman was born in Memphis, Tenn., but spent much of his childhood in the Mississippi Delta. He is a co-owner of the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale.

"I'm definitely concerned," country singer and fellow Mississippian Steve Azar, whose video for his hit "Waitin' on Joe" featured Freeman, said Monday. The two have also worked charity events together. "He's been the best ambassador our state has ever had."

"He could live anywhere in the world and he came back home," Azar said. "I just think it shows a lot about him as a person and how grounded he is."

The hospital where Freeman is being treated is commonly known as The Med, and is an acute-care teaching facility that serves patients within 150 miles of Memphis.

In Celebration of his New Life

VICENTE AYUYU ATALIG

Better Known as "Ben"

Born on January 02, 1948 • Died on July 31, 2008
at the age of 60

Parents	:	†Onecimo O. & †Ana A. Atalig
Grandparents	:	†Vicente & †Julia Ayuyu †Maria O. Conception
Parents In-Law	:	†Pedro and Juliana Apatang
Son In-Law	:	†Harvey T. Atalig
Uncles and Aunts	:	†Juan C. &†Maria M. Manglona, †Jose C. Ayuyu, †Cecilia A. Hocog, Annucrasion A. & Pedro Manglona, Rosa A. Mike Williams
Stepmother	:	Maria A. Atalig
Survived by		
Wife	:	Consolacion (Chong) Apatang Atalig

Children & Grand Children:
Julie Ann A. Atalig (Trudy Ann, Tonica, Harvey Jr.)(Rota)
Edwin Fujihira & Laureen Dlc. Atalig (Nathan, Sabrina Lynn, L'Wina Lynn and Shawn)
Jennifer A. & Theodore M. Manglona (Kaydee, Theodore Jr., Theora, James)
Sharon A. & Prudencio A. Manglona (Chanelle, Prudencio IV, Vincent, Alana, Roy, Deonn)
Bradlee A. Atalig & Marina R. Agulto (Ginna, Emma, Ross, Nicole, Nicholas)
Yvonne A. & Godel Omengabar (San Diego)
Vicente Jr., A. & Tina T. Atalig (Andrea Juliana, Christina Ina,, Cara Zaida)

Brothers/Sisters & Spouses:
Natividad Dlc./Francisco Borja †/†Jose Kaneshi & Chicldren
Angelina Dlc. Gregory & Children
†Manases A. and Amy Atalig & Children
John A. Atalig & Children
Jose A. & Cil Atalig & Children
Manuel A. & Jackie Atalig & Children
David A. Atalig & Children
Rose A. Atalig & Roger Sn. Taisacan & Children
George A. & Vivian C. & Children
Jim A. Atalig & Avery Cruz & Children
Jessica A. Atalig & Alex L. Maratita & Children
Marlinda A. Atalig & Royce M. Hocog & Children

Brothers/Sister In-Law: †Juan A. Apatang & Children
Maria A. & Jose Camacho & Children
†Alfred M. & Margarita T. Apatang & Children
Jose M. & Lucy Sn. Cruz & Children

Nightly Rosary is being said at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 7:00 p.m. at San Isidro Church in Sinapalo (Rota)

Family viewing will be offered on August 05, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ada's Funeral Home, Sinajana, Guam.

On Wednesday, August 06, 2008 his remains will arrive from Guam at 10:00 a.m. and will be brought to Rota Health Center Morgue.

On Friday, August 08, 2008, his remains will be brought to San Francisco De Borja Church for last respect from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mass of Chirsitian burial will be at 11:30 a.m followed by burial at San Jose cemetery. Lunch will be served afterwards.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Consolacion (Ching) Apatang Atalig
Children & Families

Brangelina: Family life with twins is good

NEW YORK (AP)—Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt say their four previous children are adjusting just fine to the arrival of a twin brother and sister last month, with cupcakes and "Dora the Explorer" to help ease the transition.

Jolie and Pitt speak about their growing family, their charity work and their work-life balance in a question-and-answer in a special edition of People magazine that hit the newsstands Monday. A 19-page, $14 million-photo spread anchors the piece and gives a first look at the new babies interacting with the whole family.

The photos show Jolie and Pitt—each cradling a twin—sitting on a white bed with Zahara, 3, between them; Pax, 4, by Jolie's side; and Shiloh, 2, lying on top of 7-year-old Maddox, who is plopped down by Pitt. There are close-ups of the twins, Knox and Vivienne, with their eyes closed, and photos of the older siblings gently holding the babies.

AP
Eduardo Tay reads People Magazine at a magazine stand in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles Monday, Aug. 4, 2008, featuring photos of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's newborn twins.

"It is chaos, but we are managing it and having a wonderful time," Jolie, 33, says in the interview, though Pitt jumps in: "(It's) still a cuckoo's nest."

Jolie says they helped prepare their children for the babies' arrival by showing them an episode of "Dora the Explorer" that featured twins, and by celebrating the birth with cupcakes.

So far, laying out the welcome mat has paid off, she says.

"Shiloh calls them her babies. She and Z pick out their clothes and help change and hold them. It's sweet—they are little mommies," Jolie tells the magazine.

Jolie also puts to rest speculation they conceived the twins through in-vitro fertilization.

"If they had been conceived through IVF, we would have been happy to discuss it," she says. "But we have been fortunate never to have had fertility problems."

The photos were shot at the Chateau Miraval in Provence, France, where the Jolie-Pitt clan have hunkered down in recent months. The twins were born July 12 in Nice, France.

The photos of the family fetched $14 million, a person involved in the negotiations told The Associated Press on Friday, giving People and the British tabloid Hello! joint rights to publish the most expensive celebrity pictures ever sold.

The person asked not to be named because he was not authorized to release the figure.

The money—more than double the $6 million People paid for Jennifer Lopez's twins on a March cover, according to Forbes—will go to a foundation created by Pitt and Jolie that largely focuses on helping children around the world.

Key 'Idol' producer Nigel Lythgoe is moving on

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A key "American Idol" producer who's guided the top-rated TV show since its debut is leaving the job as the Fox juggernaut faces the challenge of staying on top in its eighth season.

Nigel Lythgoe is negotiating a joint-venture deal with "American Idol" creator Simon Fuller and 19 Entertainment, the company announced Monday.

The smiling, blond-haired Englishman, who could often be spotted on-camera sitting behind the "American Idol" judges' row, is familiar to viewers on "So You Think You Can Dance?", which he produces and helps judge.

"I will step back from my day-to-day producing work on 'American Idol' and will be devoting my time" to the new enterprise, Lythgoe said in a statement.

The change comes as "American Idol" jockeys to keep its hold on the No. 1 ratings spot, a rare feat for an aging show, and after last season's small ratings downturn and an unsettling audience shift.

The series averaged 28.4 million weekly viewers last season compared to the 30.8 million who watched during its highest-rated year, 2005-06.

Viewership for the May finale with winner David Cook and runner-up David Archuleta was the second-highest for the show in five years, but dropped slightly from last year among 18-to-49-year-old viewers - an indication that the "American Idol" audience is aging.

Fox congratulated Lythgoe on his new venture but acknowledged it was "disappointed" that he would not be continuing as executive producer.

"He is an extraordinarily talented producer whose creative contributions to the No. 1 show on television have been immeasurable," the network said in a statement.

It was unclear whether Lythgoe will continue to have a hand in "American Idol." His fellow executive producer, Ken Warwick, also has worked on the show from the beginning.

Asked what roles Lythgoe and Warwick might have with the show when it returns next January, 19 Entertainment spokesman Eric Green said the producers for next season have yet to be decided.

National auditions for the singing contest's new season are under way.

In a statement, Fuller called Lythgoe "the best producer I have ever worked with" and noted they have collaborated for more than 10 years. Fuller heads 19 Entertainment, which produces "American Idol" with FremantleMedia North America.

TV, film and stage projects all will be on the table for Fuller and Lythgoe's new enterprise, Green said.

Dinosaurs interact with humans on 'Primeval'

By BRIDGET BYRNE
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHERTSEY, England (AP)—Dinosaurs can be challenging co-stars. Especially when you can't see them.

"Basically it's a man in a very colorful jumpsuit with something attached to a long pole going, 'It's swooping, it's swooping, it's coming around, it's coming down. Araaagh!'" says Ben Miller, mimicking an on-set stand-in for the beasts, later to be fully realized by computer-generated special effects.

As Sir James Lester, an arrogant government official, Miller only occasionally encounters a dinosaur. But the rest of the cast of BBC America's "Primeval" continually meet up with the fiercest of the species - or cozy up to the cutest.

"At first when you are reacting to a traffic cone on a stick it's a bit hilarious. The hardest thing was not to laugh," says Andrew-Lee Potts, who plays dinosaur-obsessed computer geek Connor Temple.

"It was a learning curve for all of us and there were a lot of giggles along the way," Potts added. "But now when you see new characters come to the show and you see those actors struggle with it, you realize how it's become part of your life, so I don't find it tough any more."

The series, which premieres on Aug. 9 at 9 p.m. EDT, is built around the adventures of a group of scientists turned action heroes. Attached to the so-called Anomaly Research Centre, they're investigating the sightings of alarming and intriguing creatures, which pop up in modern life via time warp holes in the universe.

On a recent rainy day in Chertsey, about 25 miles west of London, filming of the series continued on the Anomaly Centre set, which was built on an old industrial site.

A small dinosaur, a Diictodon, has escaped from its cage. But, of course, there's no sign on the set of anything that even remotely resembles a prehistoric beast.

AP
In this image released by ITV Plc, actors from left, Hannah Spearritt, Andrew Lee Potts, Douglas Henshall, Lucy Brown, James Murray and Mark Wakeling are shown from BBC America's, "Primeval."

"It looks like a big guinea pig," says Miller, helpfully describing a Diictodon to the uninitiated.

"Primeval," which airs in Britain on ITV, is the creation of Tim Haines and Adrian Hodges.

A science journalist turned filmmaker, Haines produced the Emmy-winning BBC documentary series "Walking with Dinosaurs," a huge hit when it aired on the Discovery Channel in 2000. He also used similar CGI, animatronics and location footage to create plausible images of extinct creatures in the 2001 series "Walking with Beasts" and "Walking with Monsters" in 2005.

"It gave me a skill set where you say, 'Well, what else can this do?'" says Haines.

So he devised this TV drama with "a creature of the week" - often scary, but never so ghastly that it oversteps the bounds of family-friendly programming.

Haines explains that most of the creatures are drawn from historic truth because "if you obey the rules and design a creature based on biology or something that did exist, then people go, 'Oooh, that looks real!'"

Yet the fantasy element of the show provides license to let the imagination soar. "It's a fantastic relief not to have to worry about the length of their teeth and the size of nostril hair," Haines notes, "so I could add an extra sabre tooth to the Gorgonopsid and no one cared, because this is drama."

Besides the huge, predatory dinos, the show also features a harmless Scutosaurus, which looks like an elephant but is actually related to a turtle. On a smaller scale, there's Rex, a domesticated flying lizard. There are also giant spiders, millipedes, scorpions, worms, cute but deadly Dodos, the alligator-like Mosasaur, and a flying Pteranodon, which invades a golf course.

Because "Primeval's" time warps include the future, there is also the strange, ape-like and skull-headed Future Predator. It was the trickiest of the show's creatures to create because it is entirely imaginary. Bringing it from idea to screen took about three months.

"When effects step out of the background and become an active participant among the characters, that changes the dynamic, alters the drama. That gives you something audiences hadn't seen before," says Haines.

He notes there are still very few TV shows with such integrated effects: "If you look at space operas, they show flying machines and occasionally people walk on in a pair of rubber ears. Personally I think the age of rubber ears is over. What you need to do is to produce believable digital characters."

"Primeval" does that, but Haines is also quick to credit scriptwriter Hodges, "because I can stick as many monsters in front of you as I like, but unless you fell for the characters, the team, you would not be interested."

BMI to honor Jacksons at Urban Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's a possibility for a Jacksons reunion of sorts—the brothers are set to be honored as BMI Icons at its annual Urban Awards next month.

So far, all the brothers, with the exception of Michael, have confirmed their attendance at the event, to be held Sept. 4 at the Wilshire Theatre in Beverly Hills, according to Broadcast Music Inc.'s publicist. An all-star tribute is planned, according to a release issued Monday.

The Jackson Five—which included Michael along with Marlon, Jackie, Tito and Jermaine—were a groundbreaking, best-selling act with classics that include "ABC" and "I Want You Back"; they have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The group, with brother Randy replacing Jermaine, became the Jacksons after leaving Motown in 1976. They continued their multiplatinum success with hits including "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground)."

AP

The Jackson Five–which included Michael along with Marlon, Jackie, Tito and Jermaine–during their heyday.

Both versions of the group will be honored.

There have been rumblings of a possible Jacksons reunion for years. The last album that featured all of them in some form was in 1989 and they haven't performed together in years.

The BMI Urban Awards honor R&B and hip-hop's top hitmakers.

Million-selling opening for vampire series finale

NEW YORK (AP)—Harry Potter is still king, but the final book of Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series did manage a million-selling debut.

"Breaking Dawn," the fourth of Meyer's sensational teen vampire series, sold 1.3 million copies in the first 24 hours after its midnight, Aug. 2 release. Publisher Little, Brown Books for Young Readers announced Monday that it has gone back for 500,000 more copies, making the total print run 3.7 million.

The numbers for "Breaking Dawn" are comparable to the openings of a pair of famous memoirs: former President Clinton's "My Life" and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's "Living History." But they don't approach the unveiling of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." The seventh and final volume of J.K. Rowling's fantasy series sold 8.3 million copies in its first 24 hours in the United States alone.

Iggy Pop, Stooges' gear stolen after Montreal show

DETROIT (AP)—A rental truck containing Iggy Pop and the Stooges' equipment has been stolen after a concert in Montreal.

Stooges road manager Eric Fischer says the 15-foot truck stolen Monday contained all the group's instruments and stage gear. He tells the Detroit Free Press the lost items are worth tens of thousands of dollars.

The Stooges are in the middle of a tour with stops in Belgium, Britain, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain and the United States.

Fischer says the Stoogers will still make their scheduled Wednesday gig in Toronto using rented and donated equipment.

The 61-year-old Pop is considered widely influential in the development of punk and heavy metal rock.

Both sides claim Stormtrooper court case victory

LONDON (AP)—The Force was with—whom?

Lucasfilm Ltd. and a British prop designer both claimed victory in a legal battle over the iconic Stormtrooper uniforms from the "Star Wars" films.

George Lucas's film company had sued Andrew Ainsworth, who sculpted the Stormtrooper helmets for the first "Star Wars" movie in 1977.

High Court judge Anthony Mann ruled that Ainsworth violated Lucasfilm's U.S. copyright by selling replica Stormtrooper uniforms through his Web site to customers in the United States.

But Mann refused to enforce in Britain a US$20 million judgment Lucasfilm won against Ainsworth in a California court in 2006. The judge said Ainsworth's U.S. sales, which totaled 25,000 to 30,000 pounds (US$50,000 to US$60,000), were not significant enough to make him susceptible to U.S. jurisdiction.

The judge also rejected a claim against Ainsworth under British law, saying English copyright over the outfits had expired. Ainsworth's lawyer, Seamus Andrew, said the ruling meant that Ainsworth was now free to sell his replicas everywhere except the United States.

However, in a win for Lucas' side, Mann also rejected a counterclaim by Ainsworth that copyright rested with him.

"We won," said Lucasfilm's lawyer, Mark Owen. "At the end of the day there is an order that Mr. Ainsworth infringed our copyright, and the next stage of the case will be discussing remedies for that."

The judge said a hearing would be held in the autumn to determine the next steps in the case—setting the stage for further battle over the molded white uniforms worn by warriors of the evil Galactic Empire.

Among the issues will be whether either side can challenge the judge's findings at the Court of Appeal.

At a hearing in April, Lucasfilm attorney Michael Bloch called the menacing Stormtrooper figure—a full-size model of which stood alongside the bewigged lawyers in the courtroom—"one of the most iconic images in modern culture."

Lucasfilm and its lawyers had claimed the design of the Stormtroopers was created by Lucas and his artistic team, and was already in place by the time Ainsworth was hired to create the helmets.

Ainsworth's counter-claim had sought a share of merchandising revenue from the six "Star Wars" films, which his lawyers estimated at 12 billion pounds (US$24 billion).

Tolerating students who cheat damages their future and ours

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR READERS: Today's column is a continuation of the one I printed yesterday regarding cheating and ethics—a topic that clearly touched a nerve with many readers.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a retired teacher. Your response regarding high school honor students cheating shows that you do not understand the current school system. Administration is too busy with REAL problems and chooses to ignore this one. In fact, I had "good" students caught using drugs at lunch and nothing was done because "these students are not causing problems in school."

LARRY IN TEXAS

DEAR LARRY: I disagree with school administrators who pretend that students getting stoned on campus isn't a problem. Those "honor" students may not have been openly disruptive, but they were breaking the law, and that is a serious problem. If there is no accountability, then no solution to a problem is possible.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You're right that ethics have taken a nosedive, but where does it start? It starts in the home. I've seen moms feed their children food at the grocery store and throw the wrapper away without paying for it. Everyone needs to look at the behavior they model for their children and do the right thing.

DEBBIE IN GREER, S.C.

DEAR ABBY: When I attended college at a small school in Oregon, my English teacher was in her first year of teaching. A few days after the first test I took in her class, she announced that she had proof that someone had cheated. She then discarded those tests and passed out new ones. Frankly, I was glad to have a teacher who didn't look the other way.

ANNE IN PORTLAND, ORE.

DEAR ABBY: I teach at a state university. If I catch students cheating, they fail my course automatically. In addition, I also have the option of attaching the reason for that failure to their transcripts, which will probably make finding a job more difficult after they leave school, since those transcripts provide proof of their dishonesty to potential employers.

Too many people in our society, students included, opt for the easy way out when challenged. If "Valedictorian Contender" feels guilty about turning in cheaters, he/she should consider that getting caught now might be the best thing that could happen to them. Not only are they cheating themselves out of the learning they would have gained by putting forth the effort to learn the material, but they also risk their chances for future success.

S.L. IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY: If students today were taught the value of morality by studying literature and philosophy, history and economics, they would develop a higher mind and a greater belief in their own need for a sounder character.

We are assailed on many fronts by problems that seem insurmountable and insoluble, and it's easy to become discouraged. But so long as some of us strive to emphasize the need for honesty and instill in our young charges a sense of outrage for injustice, dishonesty and chicanery, we can avoid what earlier generations called mountebankery, humbug and fraud.

C.R. IN HOUSTON

DEAR ABBY: I cannot stress the importance of exposing wrongdoing when it is encountered. To quote Robert F. Kennedy: "Every time we turn our heads the other way when we see the law flouted, when we tolerate what we know to be wrong, when we close our eyes and ears to the corrupt because we are too busy or too frightened, when we fail to speak up and speak out, we strike a blow against freedom and decency and justice."

KERRY IN MONTGOMERY, ALA.

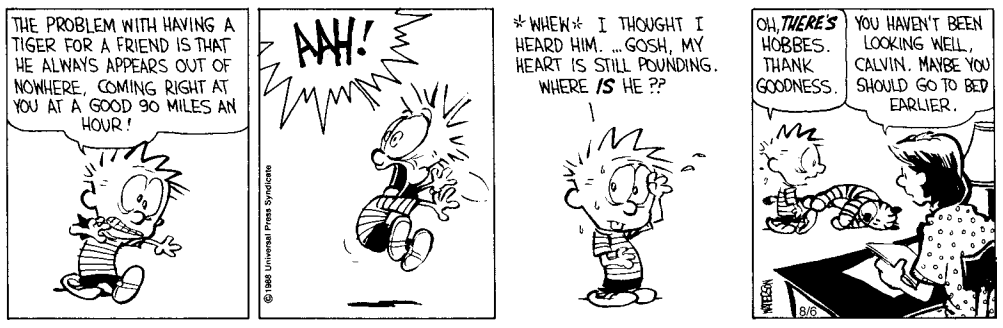
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

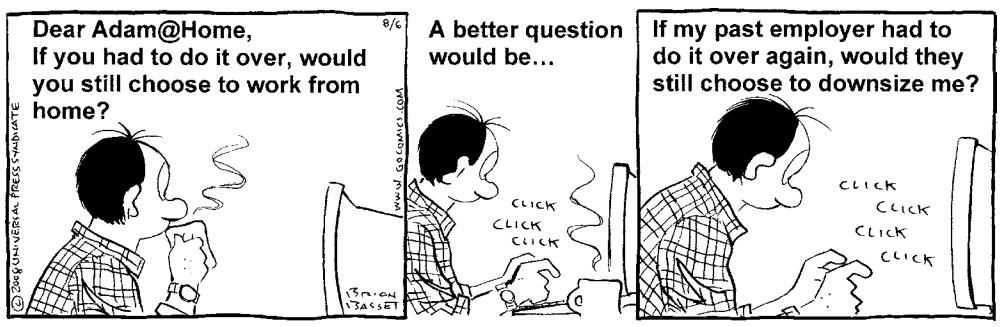

THE PROBLEM WITH HAVING A TIGER FOR A FRIEND IS THAT HE ALWAYS APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE, COMING RIGHT AT YOU AT A GOOD 90 MILES AN HOUR!
AAH!
WHEW I THOUGHT I HEARD HIM. ...GOSH, MY HEART IS STILL POUNDING. WHERE IS HE ??
OH, THERE'S HOBBES. THANK GOODNESS.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING WELL, CALVIN. MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO BED EARLIER.
8/6

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

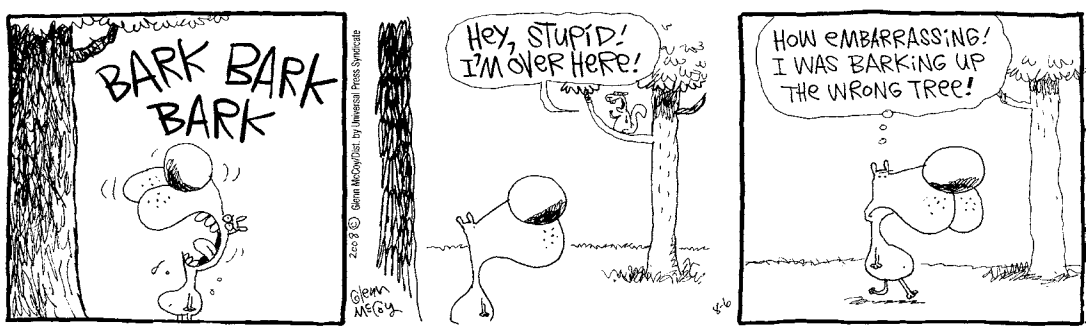
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Dear Adam@Home, If you had to do it over, would you still choose to work from home?
8/6
A better question would be...
If my past employer had to do it over again, would they still choose to downsize me?
CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

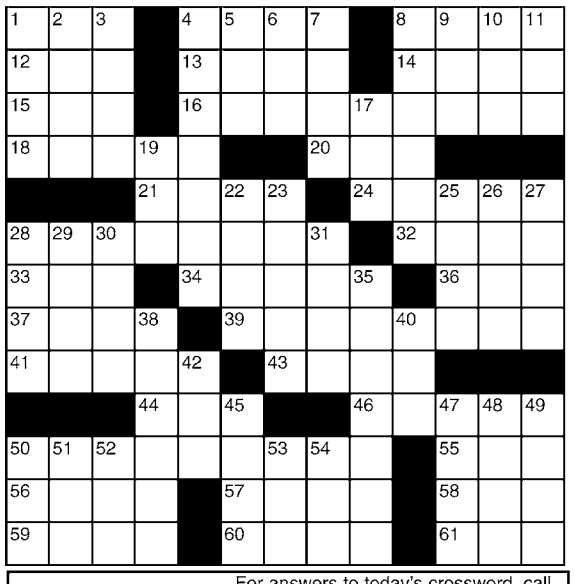
ACROSS
1 Japanese pond carp
4 Mini-plateau
8 Comedian Carvey
12 Altar affirmative
13 Not "fer"
14 Shorten a text, maybe
15 Part of NIMBY
16 Santa's home
18 Pie chart alternative
20 Square root of IX
21 "How clumsy of me"
24 Berate
28 Crime novelist Donald
32 Genealogy chart
33 Rage
34 Hydroxyl compounds
36 About-face from SSW
37 Layer
39 "Million Dollar Baby" director
41 Macho type
43 Ogler's look
44 Adversary
46 Aggressive
50 Lefties
55 Work unit
56 Opening stake
57 Hodgepodge
58 Past
59 Bosc or Bartlett
60 Billboard
61 Journal

DOWN
1 Interviewer Larry
2 Stench
3 Tittle
4 Sewer access
5 Id counterpart
6 Madam's mate
7 Con
8 Draw
9 Fuss
10 Zilch
11 Consumed
17 Towel designation
19 Cauldron
22 Glazier's sheet
23 "To your health"
25 "Yes —?"
26 Comic Jay
27 "Monopoly" card
28 Accompanying
29 Canal zone?
30 Appear
31 Otherwise
35 Ingredient in ranch dressing?
38 Roof beam
40 Distorted
42 Japanese drama
45 Grand-scale poetry
47 Ring out
48 Therefore
49 Head over heels
50 Enervate
51 Indivisible
52 Actress Hagen
53 — Baba
54 Peruke

Solution time: 21 mins.

Y	E	A	S	■	L	I	N	E	■	B	O	W
A	R	C	H	■	I	B	E	X	■	U	K	E
K	A	T	E	S	M	I	T	H	■	C	I	A
■	■	■	K	I	N	D	■	A	I	K	E	N
E	L	D	E	R	■	■	S	U	B	J	■	■
R	E	A	L	■	G	U	N	S	M	O	K	E
R	E	V	■	D	I	G	I	T	■	N	I	L
S	K	Y	L	I	G	H	T	■	T	E	R	M
■	■	J	O	E	S	■	■	D	I	S	K	S
Q	U	O	T	A	■	G	O	O	N	■	■	■
U	R	N	■	W	I	L	L	S	M	I	T	H
A	G	E	■	A	C	E	D	■	A	O	N	E
Y	E	S	■	Y	E	N	S	■	N	U	T	S

Yesterday's answer 8-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Soleil Moon Frye, 32; Geri Halliwell, 36; M. Night Shyamalan, 38; Jeremy Ratchford, 43

Happy Birthday: Swing things in your favor this year—a little melodrama and emotional manipulation should do the trick. Strategize your position and organize your time. You have much to gain this year if you play to win. This is a year of stiff competition, so prepare to do what you must to get what you want. Your numbers are 14, 17, 23, 35, 38, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You don't have to make a quick decision even if the pressure is on. Don't let anyone dictate to you what you should or shouldn't do. Once you establish your position, everyone else will adjust to what you want and need. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Network your way into a deal being tossed around and you will come up with a solution and perhaps even a proposal. The potential for a new friendship or personal relationship will develop. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Plan and organize your time wisely. Sticking to a budget will help to alleviate stress. A discussion with someone who depends on you will resolve a long-term problem. Youngsters and elders will have to be made to toe the line. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let anyone put demands on you, especially those who depend on you for so much. If you don't deal with matters swiftly, you will be unable to make the required changes. Ask someone you trust to back you up. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Plan to visit someone you miss or have been thinking about. A short trip to your old hangouts will help you solve an emotional matter. A very quick change regarding your financial situation or your vocation is something you should consider. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Talk to your colleagues or superiors regarding jobs you would like to pursue. An opportunity is likely to open up. Don't pretend you know what to do but do present the fact that you are a fast learner.

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You need to do something that you have never done before. Opening up new doors or learning something new will lead to greater friendships and awareness. Get involved in something you believe in. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Think matters through before you disassociate yourself from what's actually happening. Reexamine your home situation and, if there is something you can do to make a difference for someone else, do so. In the future, you will be able to call in a favor. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): As soon as you deviate from what you said you would do, you can expect to face opposition. Minor mishaps are apparent and could cost you personally, emotionally and financially. Avoid additional responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may have to help deal with an emotional matter that concerns a partner or younger in your life. Don't let this situation cost you financially. Paying attention to the people you love will keep the peace. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A settlement can be resolved that will bring money your way. Gifts, winnings and paybacks can all be expected. Don't spend what you get all at once. It's better to save for an unexpected expense. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you don't take control when dealing with finances, health or legal matters, someone else will step in and take over. It's better to have a hands-on attitude and make sure everything is done according to your own plan. Sudden changes can be expected. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	8				5	9	
3			9		8			4
			6		1			7
			5		9			8
		1			2			5
	5				4			3
4					7			9
1					5			6
5	7	9	3			4	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	6	4	7	9	1	3	2
4	3	9	5	1	2	8	6	7
2	1	7	6	3	8	9	5	4
6	7	4	3	9	1	5	2	8
5	9	1	8	2	4	6	7	3
3	2	8	7	6	5	4	1	9
9	6	2	1	4	3	7	8	5
7	8	3	9	5	6	2	4	1
1	4	5	2	8	7	3	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PROOFREADING **Solution: 4 letters**

S	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	F	I	C	E	P	S	P
R	T	T	L	D	G	N	I	H	S	I	L	B	U	P
H	A	H	C	A	E	R	E	T	L	A	I	N	B	R
I	C	M	G	E	N	T	L	F	A	B	C	E	M	O
G	C	E	M	U	R	G	A	A	L	T	O	P	I	F
H	U	I	E	A	O	R	U	I	U	O	I	O	T	E
L	R	T	M	P	R	H	O	A	L	N	W	O	K	S
I	A	R	T	P	S	G	T	C	G	S	A	R	N	S
G	C	A	R	W	R	I	T	E	R	E	O	M	S	I
H	Y	I	O	A	O	O	S	T	F	R	O	D	E	O
T	N	N	P	N	S	K	V	O	R	D	R	S	D	N
T	E	H	E	(X)	R	S	L	E	I	O	I	E	A	A
E	Y	R	R	A	(I)	I	I	F	W	V	F	D	R	L
X	T	A	M	R	O	(F)	Y	S	E	I	T	F	G	S
T	Y	A	S	S	E	L	U	R	T	I	N	D	E	X

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Yesterday's Answer: Adjust

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Favre flying under radar in Green Bay on Monday

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—There was no parade, no motorcade, and no photo opportunity—hardly the way you'd expect Brett Favre to return to the Green Bay Packers after spending most of the past month as the league's longest-running daytime drama.

Favre reported to the Packers as expected Monday, but managed to do so without being noticed by fans and media members staking out several entrances to Lambeau Field managed to catch a glimpse of him.

The team announced Monday afternoon that Favre had been reinstated and returned to the Packers' active roster, as was expected. To make room for Favre, the team placed cornerback Condrew Allen on injured reserve with a knee injury.

Coach Mike McCarthy had scheduled a news conference for 9:15 p.m. EDT to talk about his plans for Favre. But the news conference was rescheduled for sometime Tuesday because McCarthy was still meeting with Favre.

Both Favre and McCarthy drove out a back gate at Lambeau at 12:22 a.m. EDT. Favre waved to a small crowd of fans and media from his dark red SUV, and McCarthy followed immediately behind him in a black SUV.

Meanwhile, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell ruled Monday that he found no violations of league policy in the Packers' tampering complaint against Minnesota Vikings. And Minnesota coach Brad Childress denied reports that the Vikings have talked to the Packers about a potential trade for Favre.

"We haven't had any contact" with the Packers, Childress said.

Vikings coaches apparently did have contact with Favre in the offseason, but Goodell found that their conversations didn't violate league tampering rules. In a statement, Goodell said, "None of those conversations suggest that Favre was soliciting a job or that other teams were soliciting his services."

AP

Brett Favre and wife Deanna acknowledge fans as they get off a private jet at Austin Straubel International Airport Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis.

In a statement, the Packers said they consider the matter closed.

"Based on the information that we had, the Packers thought it was appropriate to bring this matter to the league's attention," the team said. "We respect the commissioner's investigation of this matter and we now consider it closed."

Vikings officials said they respected the "thoroughness" of the investigation.

"We provided the league with all information requested so they could be comprehensive in their decision making," the Vikings said in a statement. "Our focus has been, and continues to be, on our football team and having a successful season."

After being reinstated and added to the Packers' active roster, Favre was to take a physical examination and conditioning test.

The Packers reluctantly embraced Favre's forced return to the football field Sunday, after failing to come to a financial agreement that would manage to make Favre happy while staying retired.

And while it's not yet clear what role Favre will play for the Packers, current quarterback Aaron Rodgers says he's ready for a potential competition with Favre after serving as his backup for three seasons.

"I know if they do open it up to competition, not a lot of people give me a chance, but I believe in myself and I'm going to be the best I can be and let coach decide from there," Rodgers said Sunday night.

As the Favre saga continues to take unexpected twists and turns, the Packers apparently are turning to an expert in crisis management: Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer.

Fleischer gave a lecture to Packers players last week about media relations—an event that was scheduled before Favre got the so-called "itch" to play again—but the team apparently thought highly enough of Fleischer's advice that they decided to keep him around.

"Can't you tell?" McCarthy quipped Sunday night, after he was asked about a foxsports.com report that the Packers were employing Fleischer for one month as a consultant.

"I don't know the specifics," McCarthy said. "If he is, I might go see him when I'm done here."

Since leaving the White House, Fleischer has gone on to become president of Ari Fleischer Sports Communications, a joint venture with IMG. Last week, Fleischer told The Associated Press that he discussed the Favre situation with Packers players.

"Obviously, it's a topic, and it wasn't ignored," Fleischer said.

Panthers WR Smith apologizes for punching teammate

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP)—Steve Smith apologized and talked about winning back the respect of his teammates, coaches and fans. A battered Ken Lucas accepted Smith's apology and discussed his impending surgery.

And the Carolina Panthers' coaching staff tried to keep the team together after an ugly incident involving two of the team's highest-paid players.

A subdued, apologetic Smith returned to practice Monday, three days after the three-time Pro Bowl receiver punched Lucas in the face at practice, and two days after he was suspended without pay for the first two regular-season games.

"I'm completely wrong," Smith said in a rambling, four-minute meeting with reporters that ended with him declining to answer questions. "It was an asinine decision. And I'll move forward better than I probably have ever had to. It's the first time in my life that I really haven't forgiven myself."

Lucas also appeared on the field for the first time since Smith slugged him while he was on one knee and not wearing a helmet.

The starting cornerback, with a black left eye and swelling near his nose, rode a stationary bike while the team worked out, thanks to the broken nose that will sideline him two to three weeks.

"Depending on the surgery," Lucas said. "We're still waiting on the doctors to give us the timetable on when we're going to have this procedure done."

Smith never mentioned Lucas by name. Nor did he explain the incident. During a break in Friday morning's practice, the 5-foot-9 Smith hit Lucas after a heated discussion over a previous play.

"I will not put myself into a position where I have to defend myself, to state my side of the story. There's no side," Smith said. "There's only one side, a lack of judgment on my part.

"I have no excuse. All I have is the opportunity to gain the respect of my fans, to gain the respect of my family, gain the respect of my co-workers and gain the respect of the organization."

Smith was sent home from training camp after the incident, and did not practice Friday night or Saturday morning. He rejoined the team Sunday night and apologized in a team meeting.

"He was very remorseful, and we accepted it," safety Chris Harris said. "We're moving on. We've got our eyes looking forward."

Smith, the team's top receiver the past three years, worked with the first team at Monday's practice. But it was clear things had changed.

Smith, who led the NFL in catches, yards receiving and touchdowns in 2005, didn't talk trash with defensive players. He never spun the ball on the turf after making catches, as he's done in the past. He said little to teammates.

It was a major setback for Smith, who had seemingly overcome the anger issues that defined him early in his career. Players had talked about Smith's maturity in recent years. He was even voted an offensive captain last year by his teammates.

Just last week Smith chastised reporters for continually bringing up the past, including the 2002 incident when he punched practice-squad player Anthony Bright in a film session, earning him a one-game suspension.

"I'm a fallen man. I'm a man that made a mistake," Smith said. "I plan to mend the bridges that I've burned and help rebuild the bridge—if I need to all by myself."

Smith will be allowed to practice and play in exhibition games before his suspension goes into effect a week before the Panthers' season opener. Smith will miss games at San Diego on Sept. 7 and the home opener against Chicago on Sept. 14.

"The good thing is that we were both man enough to come face to face and talk without any other kind of altercations," Lucas said. "We're bigger than that. Sometimes when emotions are involved, you do stupid things. ... For me being a Christian, I have a forgiving heart and I'm willing to move forward to help this team win this year."

Coach John Fox said he'll have Smith work with the second team in some practices to get ready for his absence. Offseason acquisition D.J. Hackett is expected to replace Smith in the starting lineup.

"We've been through this before with other players," Fox said. "We've got to get him ready for the season and we have to get other people ready for the season, also."

With Fox's job on the line after missing the playoffs in 8-8 and 7-9 seasons, Lucas and Smith understand they need to mend their differences quickly to save this season.

"We still have some more things to talk about as far as what we can we do to be able to go out there and coexist on the same field, same team and be productive and help this team win this year," Lucas said. "Only two men can do that, and feel like we have what it takes in order to do so."

Byrd's grand slam in 9th gives Rangers win over Yankees

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Marlon Byrd hit a game-winning grand slam in the ninth inning and the Texas Rangers, long after Joba Chamberlain left with a shoulder injury, snapped a 10-game home losing streak to the New York Yankees with a 9-5 victory Monday.

Already missing No. 1 starter Wang Chien-ming and right-hander Phil Hughes from a top-heavy rotation, the Yankees lost Chamberlain when he came out with a stiff right shoulder in the fifth.

It was uncertain whether Chamberlain would be able to make his next scheduled start, but New York is likely to be cautious with the 22-year-old right-hander—even in a tight playoff race.

Byrd hit the first pitch he saw from Damaso Marte (0-1) into the right-center seats. Byrd was mobbed at the plate by his teammates after circling the bases with his seventh homer.

Michael Young and David Murphy also homered for the Rangers, who earned their first home win over the Yankees since July 19, 2006.

AP

Texas Rangers' Marlon Byrd (22) leaps onto home plate as the team waits to congratulate him following his walkoff grand slam against New York Yankees relief pitcher Damaso Marte in a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008, in Arlington, Texas.

Indians 5, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Cliff Lee tied the major league lead with his 15th win and Cleveland stayed unbeaten against American League East-leading Tampa Bay this season.

Lee (15-2) went seven innings, giving up two runs and eight hits. The left-hander is 9-2 in 13 road starts.

Tampa Bay's five-game winning streak ended. The Rays began the day 2 1/2 games ahead of Boston in the AL East.

David Dellucci hit his 100th career homer for the Indians, who improved to 20-36 on the road. Cleveland is 5-0 against the Rays this season, including a four-game sweep at home July 10-13.

Akinori Iwamura drove in both runs for Tampa Bay, which fell to 43-17 at home.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 1

At Toronto, Roy Halladay pitched eight strong innings and Toronto handed Oakland its season-high seventh straight loss.

Oakland is a major league-worst 2-14 since the All-Star break, and 9-23 since June 28.

Halladay (13-8) had retired eight in a row and 16 of 18 overall when Bobby Crosby ended his shutout bid with a homer to left in the eighth. It was Crosby's fifth of the year. Halladay gave up four hits, walked one and struck out eight.

Oakland right-hander Sean Gallagher allowed the first two runs by hitting batters with the bases loaded, plunking Marco Scutaro in the second and Adam Lind in the third. Gallagher (1-1) allowed five runs—four earned—and four hits in three innings, his shortest start of the year. He walked four and struck out four.

Royals 4, Red Sox 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Gil Meche won his fourth straight start and Alex Gordon homered to help surging Kansas City hold off Boston.

Joakim Soria allowed a run in the ninth before Sean Casey flied out with runners at second and third to end it.

Meche (10-9) struck out nine in six innings for Kansas City, which won for the seventh time in eight games. The right-hander improved to 4-0 in five home starts against the Red Sox.

Dustin Pedroia had a double and two singles, extending his road hitting streak to 25 games—the most by a Boston player since Hall of Famer Tris Speaker 95 years ago.

Mariners 11, Twins 6

At Seattle, Raul Ibanez had a grand slam and six RBIs—all in a wild seventh inning—and Seattle staged their biggest comeback of a lost season to stun Minnesota.

Minnesota starter Glen Perkins cruised into the sixth with a 6-0 lead and was still comfortably up 6-1 with one out in the seventh. Seattle looked set to tie its season low of 28 games under .500, until Ibanez triggered a 10-run inning. Ibanez set Seattle's record for RBIs in one frame, one better than Ken Griffey Jr. had in the fifth inning on April 29, 1999, at the old Kingdome.

It was the most runs the Mariners scored in an inning in nearly five years, since Aug. 30, 2003, against Baltimore.

Roy Corcoran (2-0) pitched a scoreless top of the seventh for the victory.

Angels 6, Orioles 5

At Anaheim, California, Chone Figgins drew a bases-loaded walk from All-Star closer George Sherrill with two outs in the ninth inning, and Los Angeles regrouped to beat Baltimore after Francisco Rodriguez blew a four-run lead.

Kevin Millar led off the Orioles' ninth with a leadoff single against Scot Shields, who retired the next two batters. But pinch-hitter Alex Cintron kept the rally going with a single, bringing Rodriguez (1-2) into the game.

The major league saves leader came in to face switch-hitter Brian Roberts, whose grounder toward the hole was booted for an error by two-time Gold Glove first baseman Mark Teixeira—playing his first home game for the Angels after a trade from Atlanta.

Nick Markakis followed with a two-run single and Melvin Mora tied it with a two-run double.

Brewers 6, Reds 3

At Cincinnati, right-hander Bronson Arroyo lasted six innings on a muggy night and hit a bases-loaded double on Monday, sending the Cincinnati Reds to victory that left the Milwaukee Brewers with a next-to-nothing lead in the National League wild card race.

The Brewers seem to be losing their composure, too. After left-hander Manny Parra (9-5) left for a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning, first baseman Prince Fielder went up to him in the dugout and exchanged words. Fielder then shoved Parra twice before teammates pulled him away.

Since they were tied with the Cubs for first place in the NL Central on July 26, the Brewers have dropped seven of nine. They saw their lead for the wild card reduced to a half-game over idle St. Louis with their latest loss.

Arroyo (10-8) extended his midseason surge, winning for the sixth time in his last seven starts.

Nationals 9, Rockies 4

At Denver, Tim Redding settled down after a rough start to strike out six over five-plus innings and Washington beat Colorado for its fourth straight win.

Willie Harris homered and had three RBIs for the Nationals, who had lost nine in a row prior to their current streak.

Aaron Cook (14-7) gave up seven runs—four earned—in 5 2-3 innings and lost for the first time since July 6. It was just the third time in 24 starts this season he has failed to pitch at least six innings.

Redding (8-6) gave up three runs in the first before settling down and getting his first win in nearly a month. Redding had lost four straight starts since beating Houston 10-0 on July 10.

Astros 2, Cubs 0

At Chicago, Brian Moehler pitched five sharp innings before two powerful storms rolled into Wrigley Field, and Houston withstood the wild weather to beat Chicago in a rain-shortened game that was called in the bottom of the eighth.

The first delay came in the top of the sixth and lasted 2 hours, 45 minutes. As the initial storm hit the Chicago area, fans at Wrigley were advised to take cover on the concourse.

After going back out on the soggy field, the teams were able to play for only 50 minutes. With thunder roaring and dangerous lightning flickering all around the park, a final crashing boom sent Houston first baseman Lance Berkman rushing toward the dugout.

Umpires then waved the rest of the Astros off the field with one out in the bottom of the eighth. The second delay lasted 39 minutes before the game was finally called.

Diamondbacks 13, Pirates 7

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds homered and drove in three runs, Chris Young snapped an 0-for-18 skid with three hits and Arizona routed Pittsburgh.

Reynolds finished 3-for-5 and Stephen Drew, Conor Jackson, Tony Clark and Orlando Hudson each had two hits for the Diamondbacks, who recorded a season-high 18 hits and snapped a two-game losing streak.

Arizona moved 1 1/2 games ahead of idle Los Angeles in the NL West. The Diamondbacks have won eight of 11.

Arizona starter Dan Haren (12-5) struggled early but lasted six innings to earn the win, allowing four runs and eight hits. He struck out eight without a walk. Haren has not walked a batter in his last 24 1-3 innings, spanning three-plus starts.

Giants 4, Braves 2

At San Francisco, Matt Cain beat the Braves for the first time in three career tries, Randy Winn doubled in a run and had three hits and San Francisco beat Atlanta.

Ivan Ochoa and Aaron Rowand each hit RBI singles for San Francisco, which won for the third time in four games and earned just its 21st home victory of 2008.

Cain didn't allow a baserunner past second until Casey Kotchman's two-out triple in the sixth, then Kotchman scored the Braves' first run on Omar Infante's RBI single moments later.

Cain (7-9) allowed one run on five hits in 6 2-3 innings, struck out six and walked five on a chilly and foggy summer night in the Bay Area, with a first-pitch temperature of 61 degrees.

NBA BRIEFS

Celtics' Pierce cuffed, let go after traffic stop

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police detained NBA star Paul Pierce in handcuffs during a weekend traffic stop on the Las Vegas Strip, but released him without issuing a summons. Las Vegas police Officer Bill Cassell said Monday that Pierce was handcuffed briefly after emerging "a little agitated" from a vehicle he was driving around 3 a.m. Sunday. Pierce led the Boston Celtics to the championship this year and was MVP of the finals. The 6-foot-7, 235-pound Pierce was given field sobriety tests and a Breathalyzer, which registered below the legal limit. Cassell said Pierce was not arrested. A valet was called to drive Pierce's car, and Pierce took a cab back to where he was staying. A spokeswoman for the Celtics said Monday the team and Pierce had no comment.

Pistons sign free agent center Kwame Brown

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Pistons have signed free agent center Kwame Brown, the overall No. 1 pick in the 2001 draft. The team announced the signing on Monday. Team president for basketball operations Joe Dumars told The Associated Press last week that Brown will be paid $4 million next season. Brown has an option for a second season for another $4 million. The 26-year-old has career averages of 7.5 points, 5.7 rebounds, 1.1 assists and 23.7 minutes in 404 NBA games. He averaged a career-high 10.9 points and 7.4 rebounds during the 2003-04 season as a member of the Washington Wizards, who drafted him No. 1 overall out of high school. Brown also has played for the Los Angeles Lakers and Memphis Grizzlies.

Michael Phelps gets into Beijing almost unnoticed

BEIJING (AP)—Michael Phelps sneaked into Beijing almost unnoticed. He's unlikely to go out that way.

The probable star of the Beijing Olympics avoided hundreds of fans, photographers and reporters Monday by taking a side door out to a waiting bus while his teammates pushed luggage trolleys through the arrival gate at Beijing's new Terminal 3, a sprawling addition to the city's airport.

Phelps, who's grown a mustache while training in Singapore, eventually was spotted—in a window seat on the team bus—by dozens of reporters and photographers. He ignored most of the cameras, glancing in their direction a few times as he adjusted the fit of his baseball cap.

One young Chinese girl said she had waited five hours hoping to get an autograph. She also carried an envelope in her hand, addressed in imperfect English: "To Michael Phelps you have to look at." Asked why she wanted to see Phelps, a friend standing nearby answered for her.

"Because she thinks he's handsome."

Phelps, who won six gold medals four years ago in Athens, is aiming to surpass Mark Spitz's seven-gold effort at the 1972 Munich Games. Phelps will compete in eight events in Beijing, three of which are relays.

"I'm looking to do something different that the sport has never seen," Phelps said a few days ago in Singapore.

At last year's world championships in Australia, Phelps won seven events and was denied the chance for an eighth victory when a teammate was disqualified from the preliminaries of a relay the Americans were heavily favored to win.

Dara Torres, the 41-year-old self-described "old lady" of the U.S. team, was one of the few swimmers to speak in the rush to board the bus.

"It's finally sunk in," said Torres, who will compete in her fifth Olympics. "I am very excited to be here. I just want to get to the pool and start swimming a little bit."

Classified Masters Bowling Tournament this Sunday

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The Inaugural Classified Masters Bowling Tournament is set for this coming Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

According to tourney coordinator Ador Dimaano, the competition will have three divisions—Class A for bowlers who roll 170 and over, Class B for 155-169, and Class C for 154 and below.

He added that registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and only bowlers with at least 49 games in the last two seasons of the San Jose venue and Capital Bowling Center leagues will be given classifications.

Bowlers with less than 36 games in Saipan's two bowling alleys can play but will have to suit up for the Class A category.

Bonus pins, according to Dimaano, will be 90 for Class C (10 pins a game in the stepladder), 45 pins in Class B (five pins a game in the stepladder), while Class A participants will not be given bonus pins.

The tournament will start with a nine-game roll-off with the Top 5 for each of the three divisions advancing to the stepladder finals. The first game in the playoffs will have fifth place against fourth, followed by the second round where the winner of the first game goes up against the third placer.

The semifinals will then feature the No. 2 seed against the winner of the second round and the winner of that match-up will move on in the finals against the No. 1 seed for the championship.

Dimaano said the lane oil pattern for the one-day tournament is long oil (45 feet) and the entry fee is $50 per player and must be in before Aug. 10.

He said first place nets $700, provided the tournament draws at least 36 participants. The Inaugural Classified Masters Bowling Tournament starts with practice at 9:15am with the roll-off set at 9:30am.

Fiesta Conference finals too close to call

MANILA, Philippines—No less than PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios noted that in so many ways, the2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference Finals between Air21 and Barangay Ginebra is like the All-Filipino title duel between Sta. Lucia Realty and Purefoods.

The best-of-seven finale in the season-ending tourney begins Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum with a highly touted champion team on one side and a ball club looking for recognition on the other side.

It was practically the same pairing in the first conference with Sta. Lucia Realty defying the odds, surprising Purefoods and everybody in winning the All-Filipino crown for the first time since joining the league in 1993.

League watchers observe the same, tending them to anticipate an Air21 victory to complete a season of the underdogs.

This is not lost on the PBA coaches. They say the intelligent choice should be Ginebra for its talent and experience but it's hard to put a bet against an Air21 team seemingly destined to finally be a winner.

The consensus is that the Air21-Ginebra duel has the trimmings of a classic series and it's too close to make a call.

The protagonists themselves don't think there's an underdog or favorite in the series, both believing they have a good chance of winning the coveted crown. The two teams shared lunch Monday at the Emerald Restaurant in Manila, two days before beginning their battle.

"Yes, we have the advantage in experience, but experience is just a small factor in the Finals. Once you make the Finals, you have an equal chance of winning the title. A grand slam team and an untitled team have equal chances of winning in a title playoff," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

"My players are not highly touted but they're winners in their own right. Given the chance, they would grab it," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol.

The two coaches themselves are heaven and earth if their coaching accomplishments are to be compared. Uichico has seven titles under his belt while Perasol is figuring only in his first Finals. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

DA HELLION

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founders, Dragon Tribe's Guerrero was all over Trench Tech's Alvarez early only to have the roles reversed in the closing seconds, which ended with Guerrero tapping out.

The win allowed Alvarez to keep his unblemished record now at 5-0, while Guerrero's debut resulted in a loss.

Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse of Trench Tech, meanwhile, won over Nate "The Terrible" Flores of Predator Combat Team in their lightweight bout.

It was a close fight with both fighters exchanging blows, kicks, and takedowns. Jesse eventually took the victory in his war of attrition against Flores, as the three judges scored the fight 30-28, 29-28, and 28-29 in favor of the former. Jesse improved to 2-0, while Flores now has a 1-1 record.

Predator Combat Team's John "The Jackhammer" Borja, for his part, dominated Trench Tech's Darrel "The Derailer" Salas in their middleweight showdown until Salas executed an armbar that Borja had trouble escaping from, forcing referee James Ravilla to stop the fight at the 1:06.59 mark of the third round.

Salas, who was coming off an upset win against "Kill" Bill Saures in Trench Wars VIII, now sports a 3-1 record, while Borja fell to 2-3.

Team Zalaka's Andrew "Top Gun" Sablan won his bantamweight match against independent fighter "Tabi" Jay Muna in what possibly could be Sablan's last MMA fight.

Both fighters exchanged furious blows in the opening round with the U.S. Air Force-bound Sablan once again showing his ability to not submit when Muna had him on an armbar. Sablan eventually pulled himself out and proceeded to exchange further blows with Muna.

Muna apparently had enough after the action-packed first round and conceded the match to Sablan even before the second round started. The win allowed Sablan to even his win-loss card at 2-2, while Muna dropped below .500 at 3-4.

Subbing for Saures, meanwhile, probably was not a good idea for Team Xtreme's Lucio "Oh No" Omar as the beach boy went down early and often against Predator Combat Team's Bryson Sablan.

After some posturing, Sablan mounted Omar and delivered a succession of punches to which Omar did not defend, leading Ravilla to stop the fight with only 1:24 gone in the fight. It was the third win in four bouts for Sablan.

Giovanni "Palaksi" Sablan of Trench Tech, meanwhile, improved his record to 11-3 after besting previously undefeated Jerome Norita of Marianas Elite in their featherweight bout.

Sablan, who is known for his impressive submission skills, forced Norita to tap out after the up-and-coming MMA fighter applied a rear-naked choke on him. It was the first loss in three matches for Norita.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that Charlz "The Predator" Aiken and Luka "Bad News" Iakopo Tapua'ialupe won their respective bouts against Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial and mainland fighter Johnny Mercurio.

The semi main event pitting Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo against Slade "The Rage" Adelbai, meanwhile, wound up in a draw.

During intermission, host PTI gave away T-shirts and the organizers drew ticket stubs for cash prizes and cellular phones.

Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran Kimo Leopoldo also addressed the crowd and said Saipan has so much potential and thanked the fans and organizers for doing a great job.

California-based organizer and MMA fighter, Bobby Gamboa, also extended his gratitude to local promoters Jeff Boyer, John Blanco, Pete Sablan, and Mark Sablan for their hard work and promised more exciting events to come.

The Commonwealth's first-ever women's boxing match between Soledad Tenorio of Marianas Elite and Tara Namaule of Team Zalaka will be published in the coming issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.

Predator or Prey is the first foray into the local MMA scene by Gorilla Warfare Productions.

NICK

From Page 28

The only player who had a lower score than the 2003 South Pacific Games veteran was Luis Byun, who shot a net 66. Luckily for Sablan though, the youth golfer already won the January Ace and under RGA rules, a player can only win one tournament—qualifier or monthly—once in the course of a year.

While 14-handicapper Byun topped the weekend tournament with a 42-38 for a gross of 80, Sablan had a far better gross score with his 75 built around the seven-handicapper's 37 in the front and 38 in the back.

Returning member Brett Nelson finished third best for the weekend with his 69 net (gross 93, 49-44), while Don Dunlop, Asterio Tawanpiy and Bill Kaipat complete the Top 5 with the former firing a 70 and Tawanpiy and Kaipat carding identical scores of 71.

Sonny Flores (net 72), RGA president Adam Hardwicke (72), Ben Duenas (72), Tony Rogolifoi (72), Louie Tilipao (73), Dick Pierce (73), Manny Mangarero (73), Jess Wabol (74), Ulyses Kapileo (74), youth golfer Jay Choi (78), Tars Olopai (77), Andy Nepaial (82), and former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Tom Tebuteb (84) also took part in the qualifier by playing in the 13th TOC.

RGA also took the opportunity to congratulate members Byun (B Flight winner), Hardwicke (Championship Flight third place), Sablan (Seniors Flight second place), and Wabol (Championship Flight fifth place) for giving a good account of themselves in the 2008 edition of the TOC.

In related news, Wabol, who serves as RGA's tournament director, is reminding Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

For more information about other competitions held by the club, contact Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673.

ROBLES

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For finishing in the Top 3 of the women's division, Soll, Villavicencio, and Cal pocketed $70, $40, and $25, respectively.

The King and Queen of the Lanes attracted a total of 55 entries. The monthly competition is organized by Saipan Bowling Association and is sponsored by MARPAC.

Last Sunday, Raphael Zapanta won his fifth The Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament after besting a field of six other youth bowlers.

USA

From Page 28

that here. That "Redeem Team" moniker may stick in the States, but they still carry the same nickname here that they had in 1992, when they deserved it, and 2004, when they didn't.)

But they're rock stars sort of like the guys from Aerosmith after they got old and had kids. Their idea of fun isn't what most would expect from them.

Asked what he planned to do on his day off, Michael Redd said: "Sleep, talk to my wife, talk to my son, and just probably play dominoes with Tayshaun Prince."

If these guys sounded any blander, they'd have to be re-nicknamed the San Antonio Spurs.

Some lucky fans got their wish Monday afternoon, when Chris Paul exited the hotel to jump in a shuttle bus waiting outside. A group of girls shrieked as if they were watching the leader of a boy band, one of them getting shoulder-blocked by an overzealous security guard after coming too close.

Part of the reason the Americans haven't gone out much is because they have all they need right where they are.

The resort in Macau, where they stayed and played, was basically an extension of Las Vegas, where they trained before coming to China. A large selection of restaurants guaranteed the players wouldn't have to eat any food they weren't used to. The team dined one night was at Morton's steakhouse, and the Fatburger (where Howard and Bosh dined) in the food court was a hit with members of the U.S. delegation.

The hotel's plaza in Shanghai features a full day's worth of menu choices from back home: California Pizza Kitchen, where Wade, Paul, and LeBron James were part of a dinner party after arriving Saturday; Tony Roma's; Starbucks and Haagen-Dazs. This is all part of USA Basketball's plan to keep the players as comfortable as possible. Even Bryant, an experienced world traveler who's lived in Europe and made multiple visits to Asia, said before this trip he wanted to stick with what he knew.

"I had a bad experience in the United States with some damn cheesecake," he said, recalling a bout with food poisoning after ordering room service from a Sacramento hotel in the 2002 playoffs. "So if I'm scared of cheesecake, the night before a game I'll probably just stay with the chicken and the steak."

The Americans had one final exhibition Tuesday against Australia, then it was off to Beijing. So if they were planning to find some fun among their fans, time was running out.

"We're going to try to get out a little bit," Wade said. "We try to enjoy the experience wherever we go and hopefully we can do that—and it not be too crazy."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	66	45	.595	–
Boston	64	49	.566	3
New York	61	51	.545	5 1/2
Toronto	56	56	500	10 1/2
Baltimore	53	58	.477	13

Central Division

Chicago	61	49	.555	–
Minnesota	62	50	.554	–
Detroit	55	56	.495	6 1/2
Kansas City	53	60	.469	9 1/2
Cleveland	49	62	.441	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	70	42	.625	–
Texas	59	54	.522	11 1/2
Oakland	53	58	.477	16 1/2
Seattle	43	69	.384	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	61	50	.550	–
Florida	59	53	.527	2 1/2
New York	58	53	.523	3
Atlanta	51	61	.455	10 1/2
Washington	42	70	.375	19 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	67	46	.593	–
Milwaukee	62	51	.549	5
St. Louis	62	52	.544	5 1/2
Houston	54	57	.486	12
Cincinnati	52	61	.460	15
Pittsburgh	51	61	.455	15 1/2

West Division

Arizona	58	54	.518	–
Los Angeles	56	55	.505	1 1/2
Colorado	51	63	.447	8
San Francisco	47	64	.423	10 1/2
San Diego	43	69	.384	15

Yesterday's Games

Houston 2, Chicago Cubs 0 innings, rain
Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 3
Washington 9, Colorado 4
Arizona 13, Pittsburgh 7
San Francisco 4, Atlanta 2
Toronto 6, Oakland 1
Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 2
Texas 9, N.Y. Yankees 5
Kansas City 4, Boston 3
L.A. Angels 6, Baltimore 5
Seattle 11, Minnesota 6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

13th Tournament of Champions

Photos BY MARK RABAGO

Louie Sunga won the Championship Flight of last weekend's 13th Tournament of Champions after firing a two-day score of three-over par 147 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Louie Sunga of Guam attempts a putt in the green of the 17th hole on Day 2 of the 13th Tournament of Champions.

CNMI chief public defender Adam Hardwicke closely reads the layout of the green in the 17th hole of the Championship Flight. Hardwicke finished third.

Defending champion Jess Wabol in action in the 17th hole of the Championship Flight Sunday at the Kagman venue.

Jess Wabol tees off in the 18th hole of the 13th Tournament of Champions. Wabol wound up in fifth place with an eight-over 152.

Golf instructor Joung-Hoon Park chips in from the fairway in the 17th hole of the Championship Flight Sunday.

Youth golfer Chang Kyun Kim has fun with the flag on the 17th hole of the Championship Flight. Kim finished with a 13-over 157.

Former CNMI national golfer Joji Taguchi putts in the 17th hole of the Championship Flight. Taguchi finished with a 13-over 157.

Mike Cruz tees off in the C Flight of last weekend's 13th Tournament of Champions.

Byrd's grand slam in 9th gives Rangers win over Yankees

Marlon Byrd hit a game-winning grand slam in the ninth inning and the Texas Rangers, long after Joba Chamberlain left with a shoulder injury.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Favre flying under radar in Green Bay on Monday

There was no parade, no motorcade, and no photo opportunity—hardly the way you'd expect Brett Favre to return to the Green Bay Packers after spending most of the past month as the league's longest-running daytime drama.

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Robles, Soll win July roll-off

By MARK RABAGO
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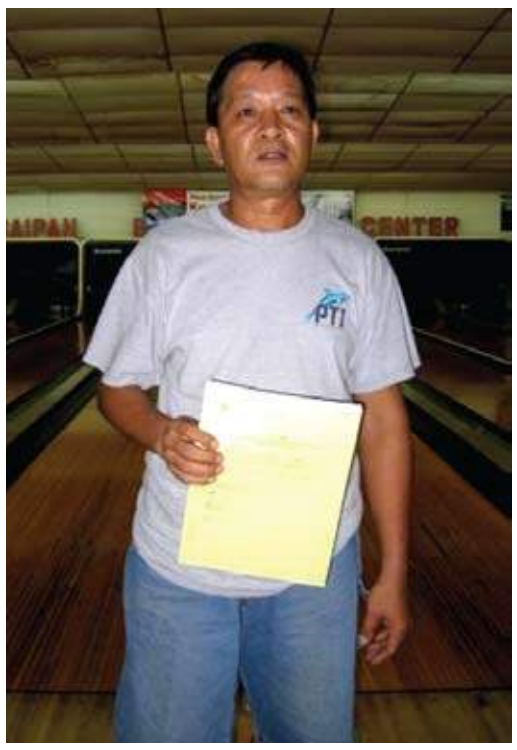
Perfect bowler Danny Robles and veteran lady kegler Elena Soll won their first monthly roll-offs of the year after besting first day leaders in the July Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament held last Sunday and Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

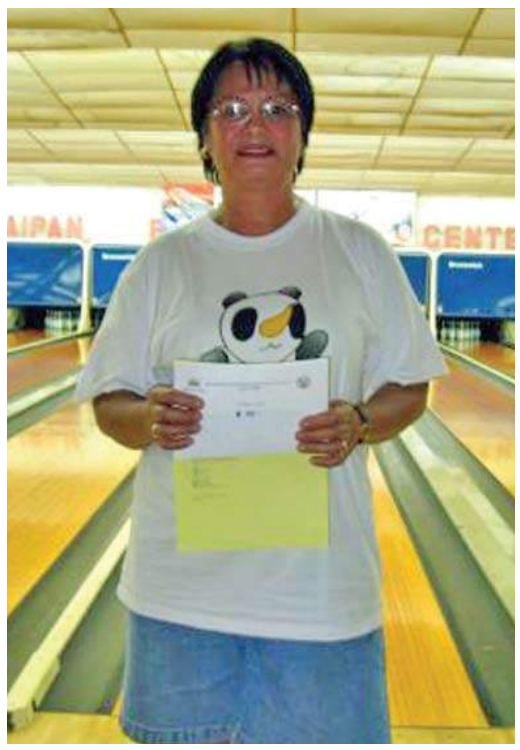
Robles rolled four games of 200-plus pinfalls on Monday to finish with a total of 856 and a 214 average to win the men's division.

He knocked down 212 pins in his first time out, hiked it to 230 in the second, before polishing off his victory with a 209 and 205 in the final two games.

Fellow perfect gamer Robert Talavera finished 24 pins behind Robles with his 832 total and 208 average built around rolls of 258, 189, 190, and 195.

First day leader Jon Hensley, meanwhile, improved on his opening day score by tattooing 820 pins and average 205 Monday but his four-game series of 184, 198, 214, and 224 still was only good for third place.





CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Dannie Robles, left, and Elena Soll won their first monthly roll-offs of 2008 after topping last Sunday and Monday's July King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Raymond Angeles completed the money list when his 817 pinfall total and 204.25 average was fourth best for the July King of the Lanes. The youth bowler rolled games of 233, 209, 191, and 184.

Robles, Talavera, Hensley, and Angeles took home cash prizes of $100, $60, $40, and $30 for their feats.

In the women's competition, Soll beat erstwhile leader Yho Villavicencio by 39 pins to win the July Queen of the Lanes.

Soll came away with a 732 total and 183 average after rolling a four-game series of 227, 149, 153, and 203.

That clearly beat the 693 and 173.25 turned in by Villavicencio on Sunday which was built around games of 190, 159, 182, and 162.

Third place was Ron Cal when her rolls of 149, 187, 171, and 180 allowed her to finish with 687 pinfalls, good for a 171.75 average.

See ROBLES on Page 26

Nick Sablan tops RGA Aug. qualifier

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Former CNMI national golfer Nick Sablan fired the score to beat in Refaluwasch Golf Association's August Ace of the Month Qualifier held over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

To save time and money, RGA piggybacked on the 13th Tournament of Champions, using the east course of the region's premiere golf competition for their August qualifier.

Sablan, who saw action in the Seniors Flight of the TOC, registered a post-handicap score of 68 to beat 18 other RGA members.

See NICK on Page 26

'Da Hellion' knocks Chisato cold in middleweight bout

Choke Chain's Lionel "Da Hellion" Borja, below, celebrates in his corner after knocking out Trench Tech's "Big" Ron Chisato, right, 13 seconds into their middleweight bout in Predator or Prey held last Saturday at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

MARK RABAGO

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Second of a three-part series

In what was the swiftest and most brutal match of Predator or Prey, Lionel "Da Hellion" Borja knocked out "Big" Ron Chisato 13 seconds into their middleweight bout held last Saturday at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Most of the crowd was still adjusting their seats when Borja unleashed a flurry of punches against the Trech Tech fighter and fellow MMA neophyte, landing a haymaker that knocked him out in what seemed like five minutes.

Chisato laid flat on his back and the ring doctor soon was summoned, but all the initial worries were eased when Chisato got up by his own power. Fight fans, who moments before were silent, cheered but the loudest applause came from Borja, as the Choke Chain fighter was relieved his opponent was alright.

The fight preceding the Borja-Chisato encounter, meanwhile, saw Cuki "The Flying Cockroach" Alvarez defeat Pete "The Dragon" Guerrero via submission 2:50 into first round.

In a battle of MMA gym

See DA HELLION on Page 26

USA Basketball keeping low profile

SHANGHAI, China (AP)— The swarm of photographers quickly reached more than a dozen, all for a can't-miss chance to witness a real superstar in action.

Only Dwight Howard wasn't doing anything super at all. No dunks, no shot blocks, nothing requiring even a hint of athletic ability.

After all, any couch potato can order a hamburger at a fast food joint.

But Howard's lunch with Chris Bosh in Macau was good enough for Chinese fans starving for a glimpse of the U.S. Olympic basketball team, because they aren't getting many chances. The Americans say they took it easy in that gambling town, and they're not exactly living it up since arriving here, content to stay fresh before the Olympics.

"We really didn't do much," Dwyane Wade said. "We're trying to adjust a lot to the time difference and so a lot of us are resting, trying to get our bodies right, getting a lot of massages. We went out on the town to check it out, but besides that we didn't do much."

That might change Monday night. Coach Mike Krzyzewski canceled practice and gave the team the day off, perhaps its last until the Olympics are over. There's plenty of nightlife in Shanghai, quite a bit catering to Americans, and some players said they might check it out.

Or they could opt to relax. The U.S. team just completed the difficult portion of its exhibition schedule, playing consecutive nights in Macau, hopping a commercial flight to Shanghai the following day, then facing Russia the next night. That could have partly explained an occasionally sluggish performance in an 89-68 victory over the Russians, easily the Americans' closest game yet.

"I feel like an NBA season," Carmelo Anthony said. "Three games in four nights."

The U.S. players are like rock stars in China, where the NBA estimates 300 million people play basketball. Young fans, some dressed in Kobe Bryant jerseys, have surrounded the front of the hotel where the Americans are staying for the last few days, hoping to spot anybody on the Dream Team.

(And, yes, they are still called

See USA on Page 26

AP
Chris Bosh, left, LeBron James, center, and Kobe Bryant, right, of USA men's basketball team for the Beijing 2008 Olympics chat during a match between USA and Russia as a warm-up for Olympics at the USA Basketball International Challenge tournament in Shanghai Sunday Aug. 3, 2008.

RELATED NEWS
Michael Phelps gets into Beijing almost unnoticed.
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